

KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

# INVINCIBLE™

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**image**<sup>®</sup> COMICS PRESENTS

# INVINCIBLE

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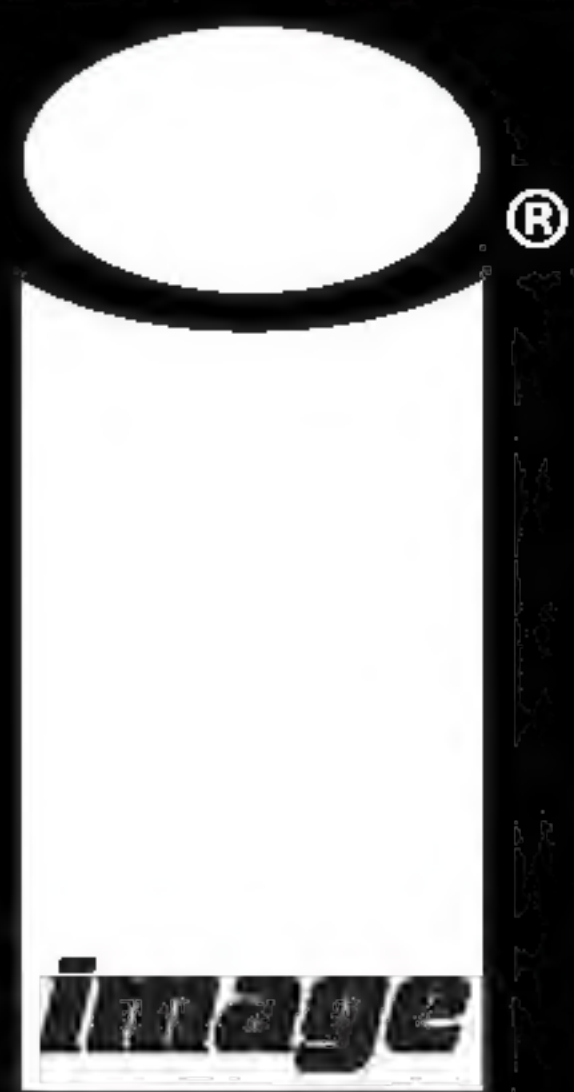
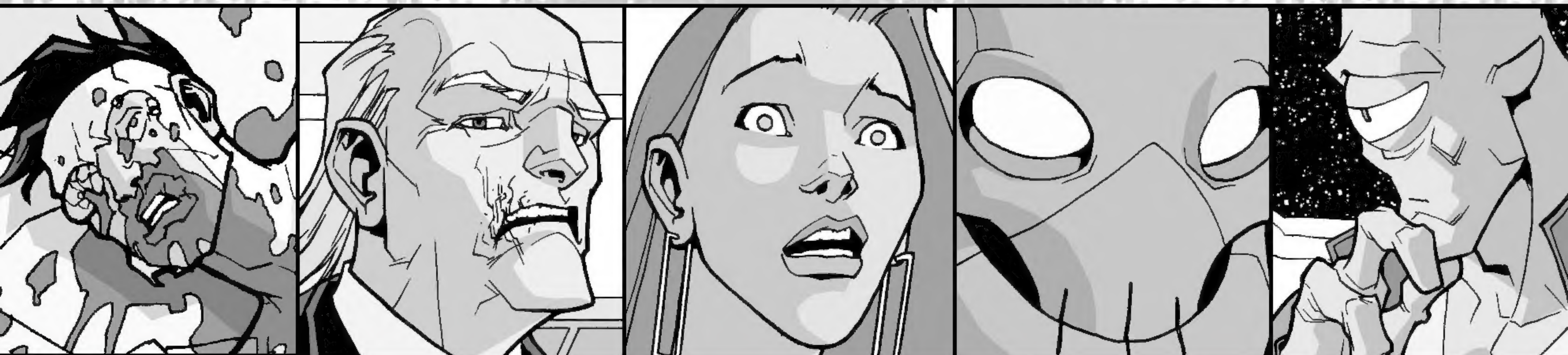
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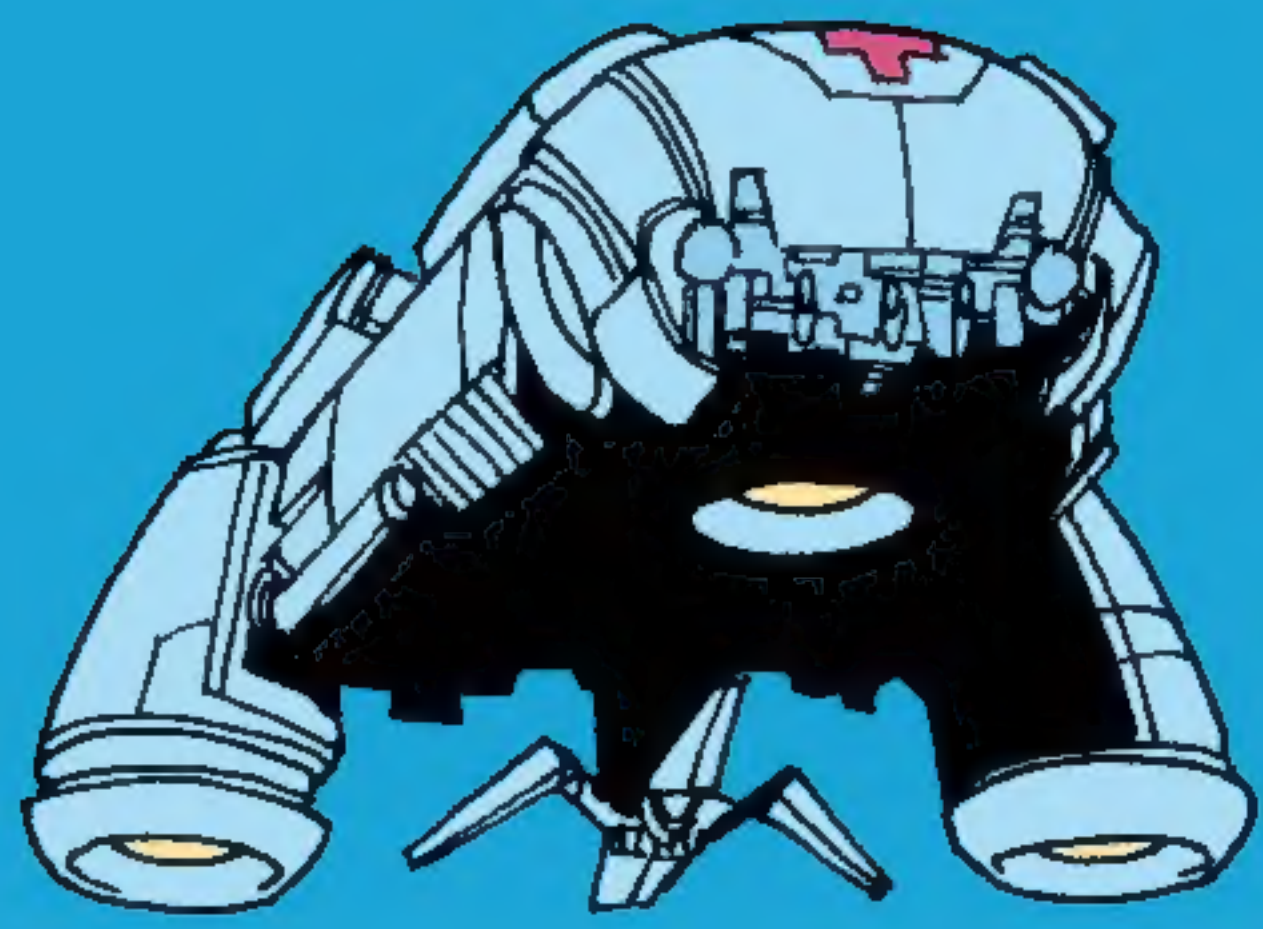
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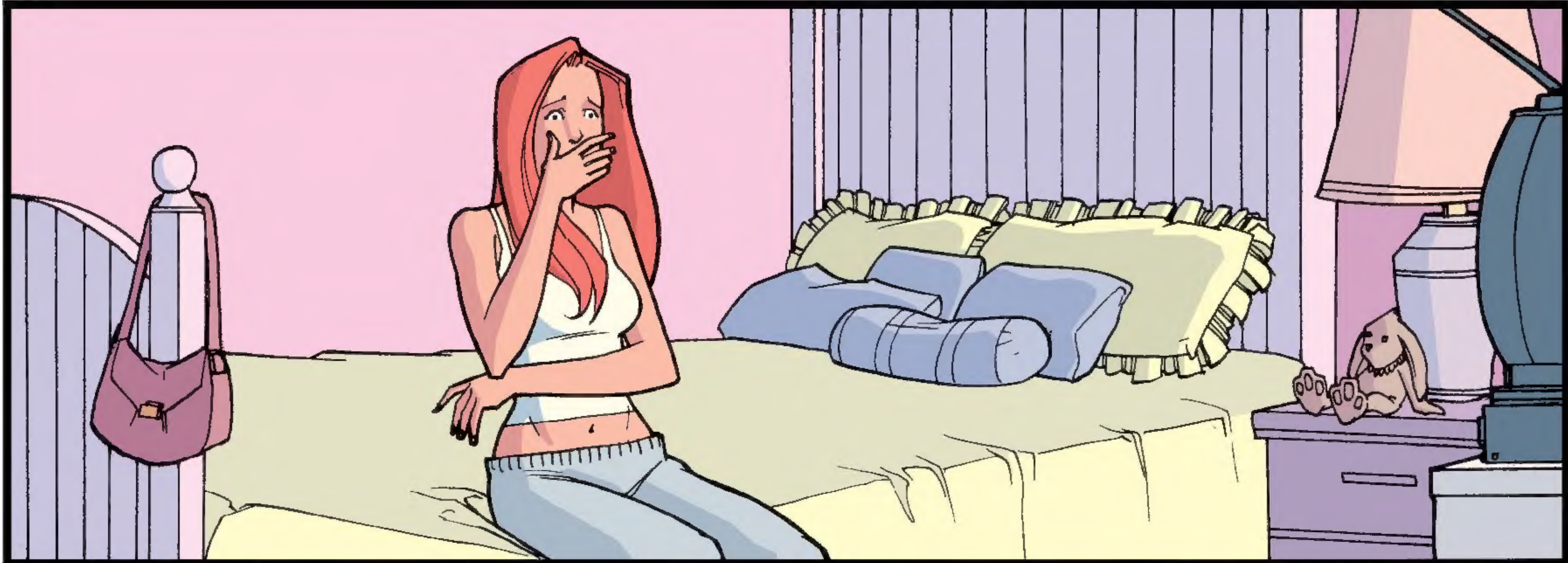
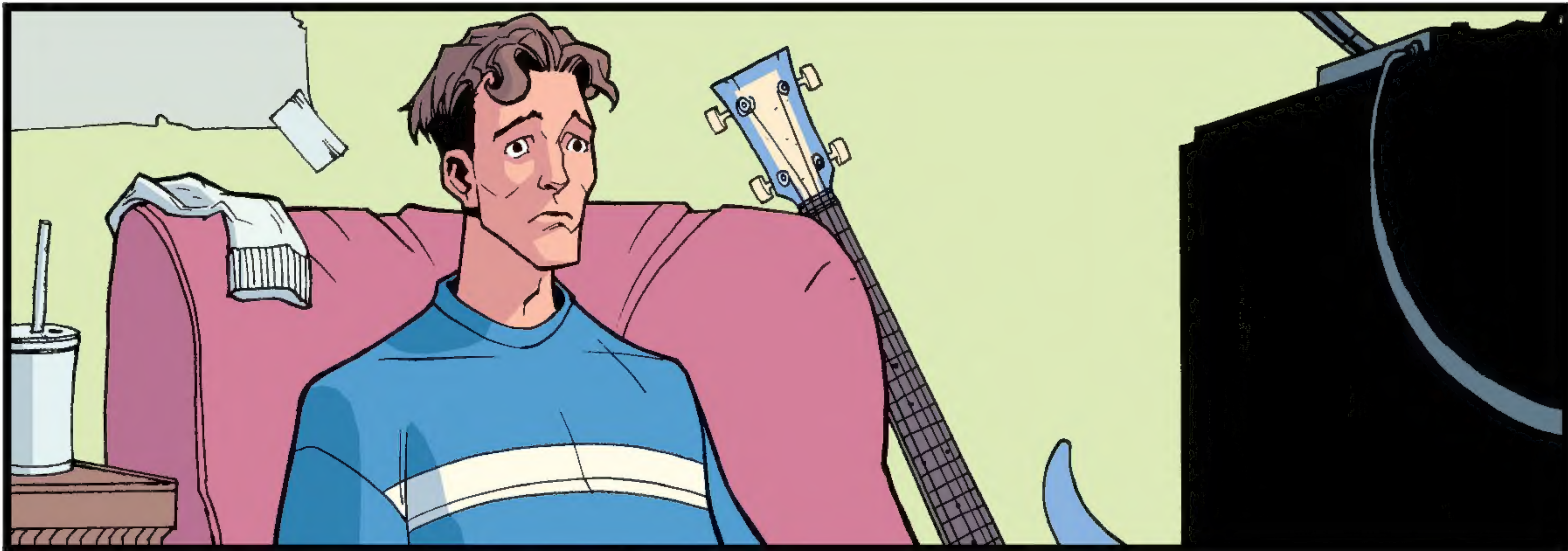
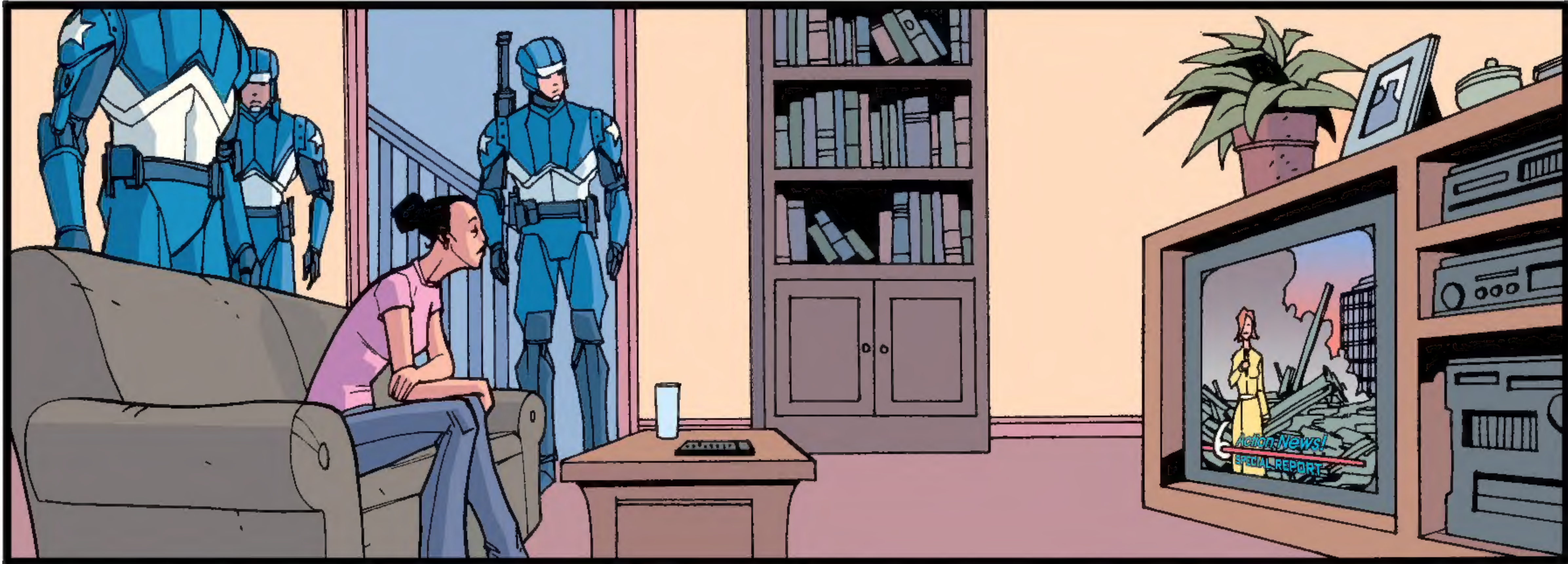
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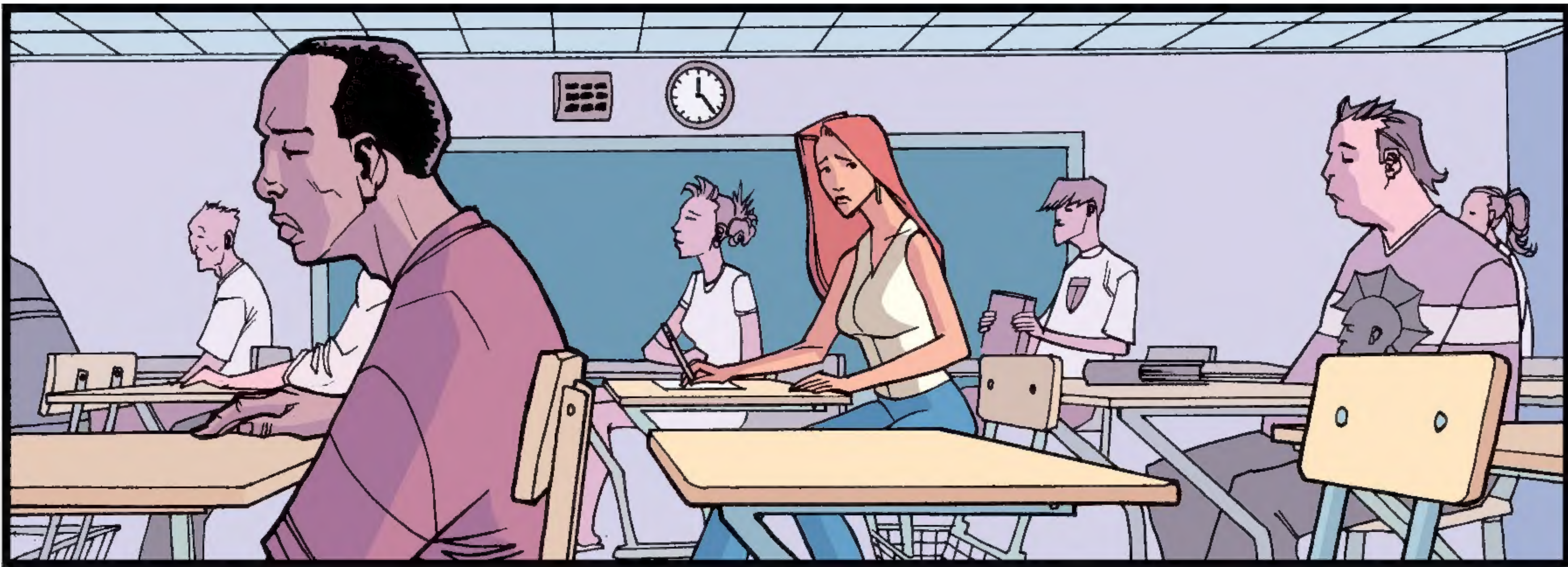
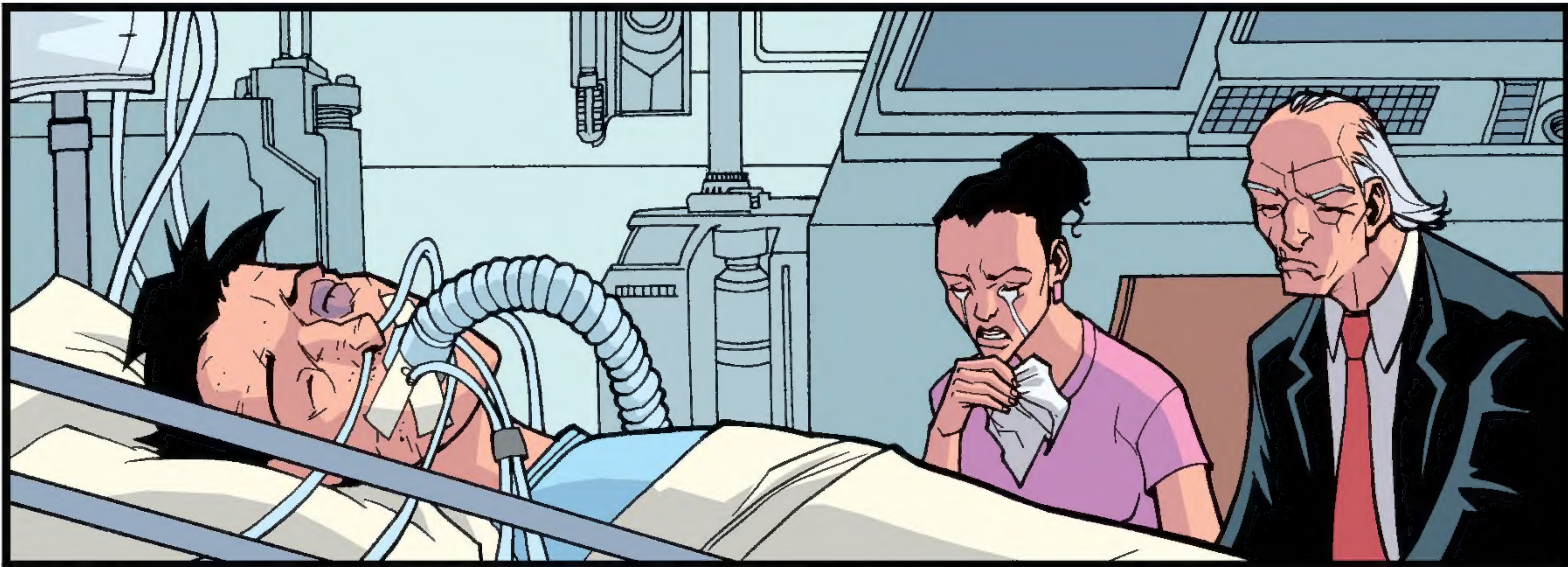
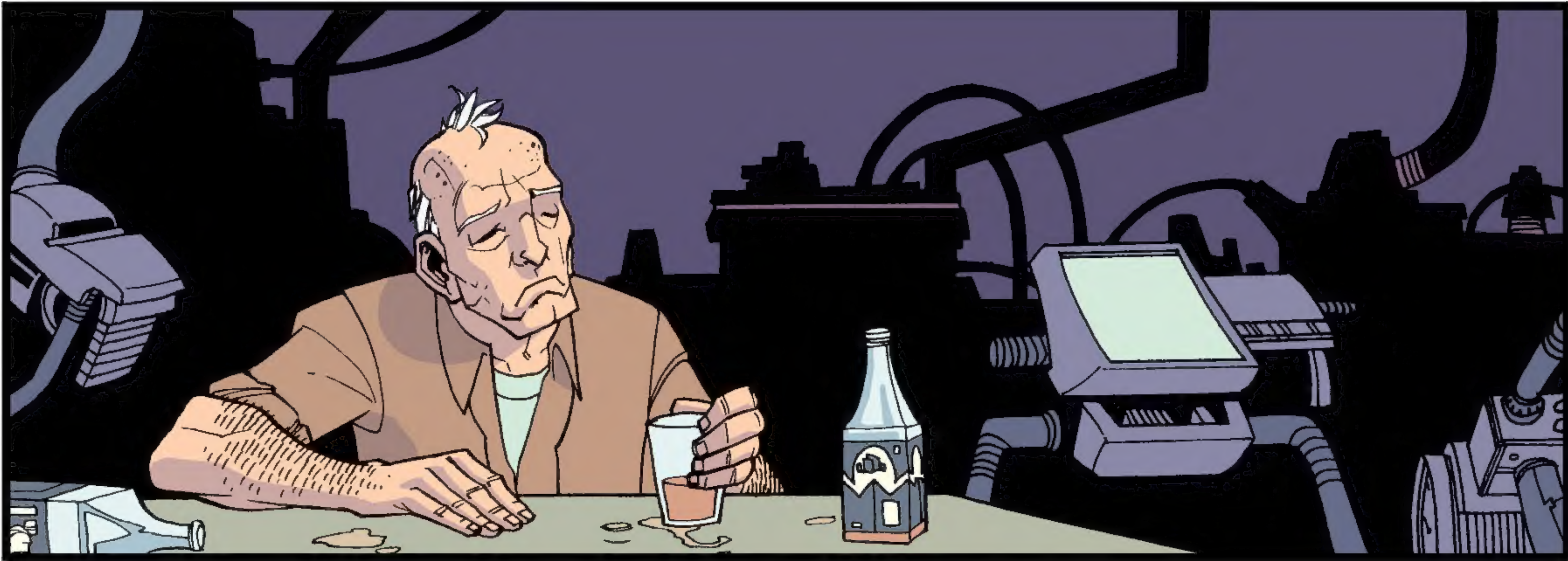




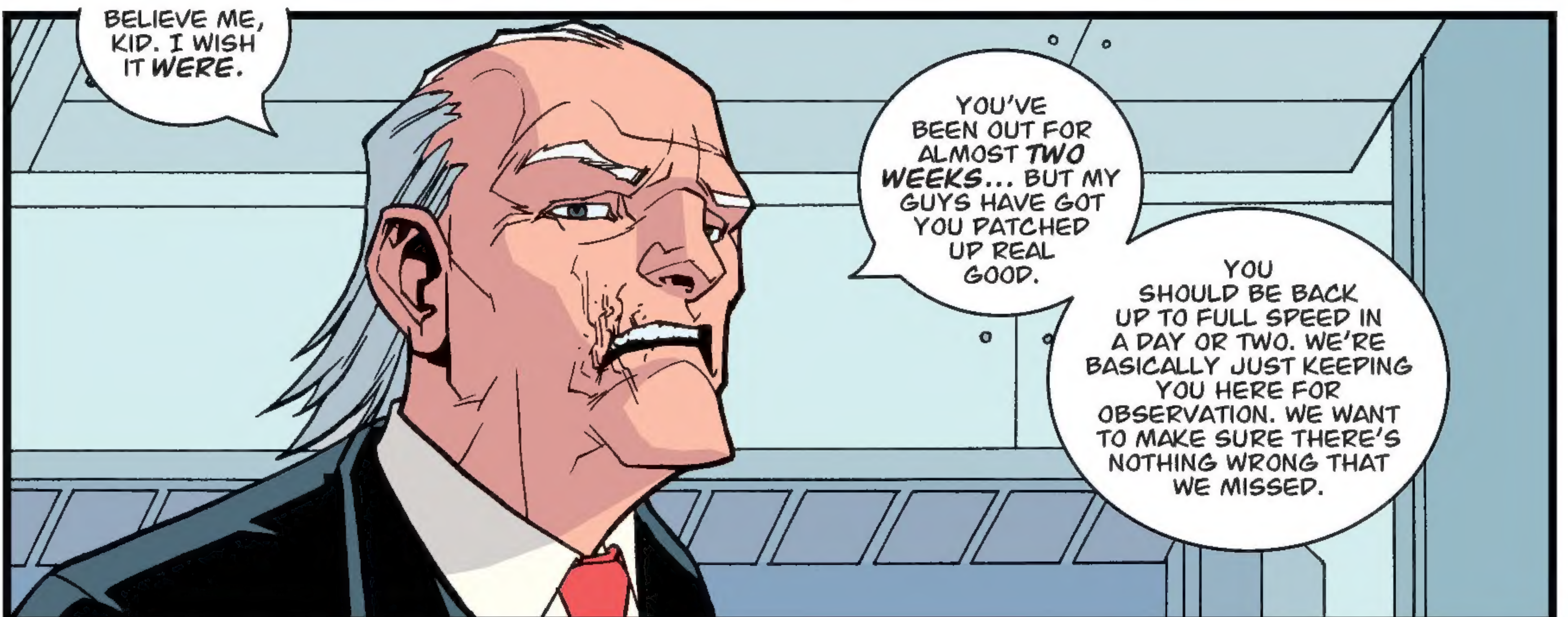
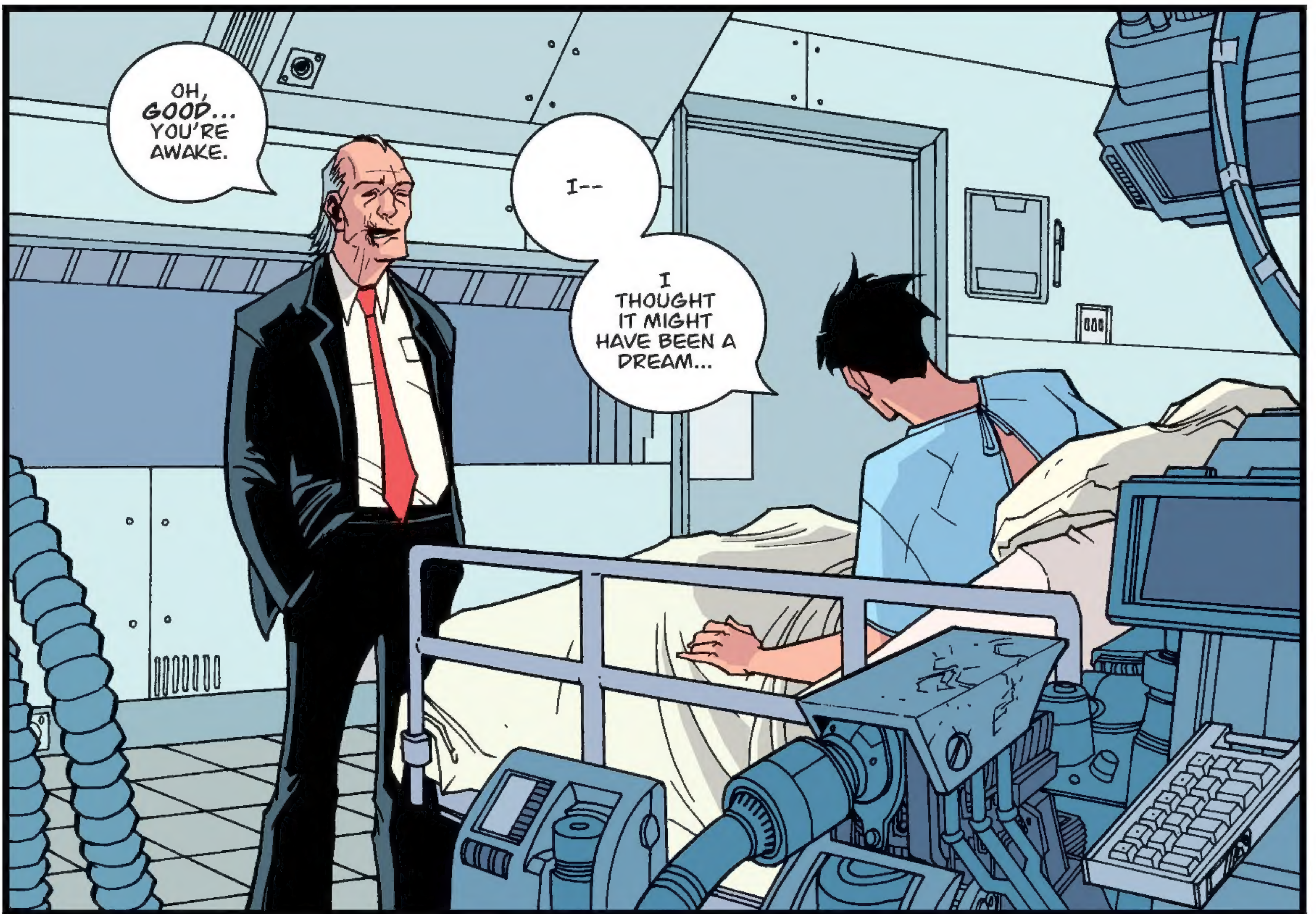
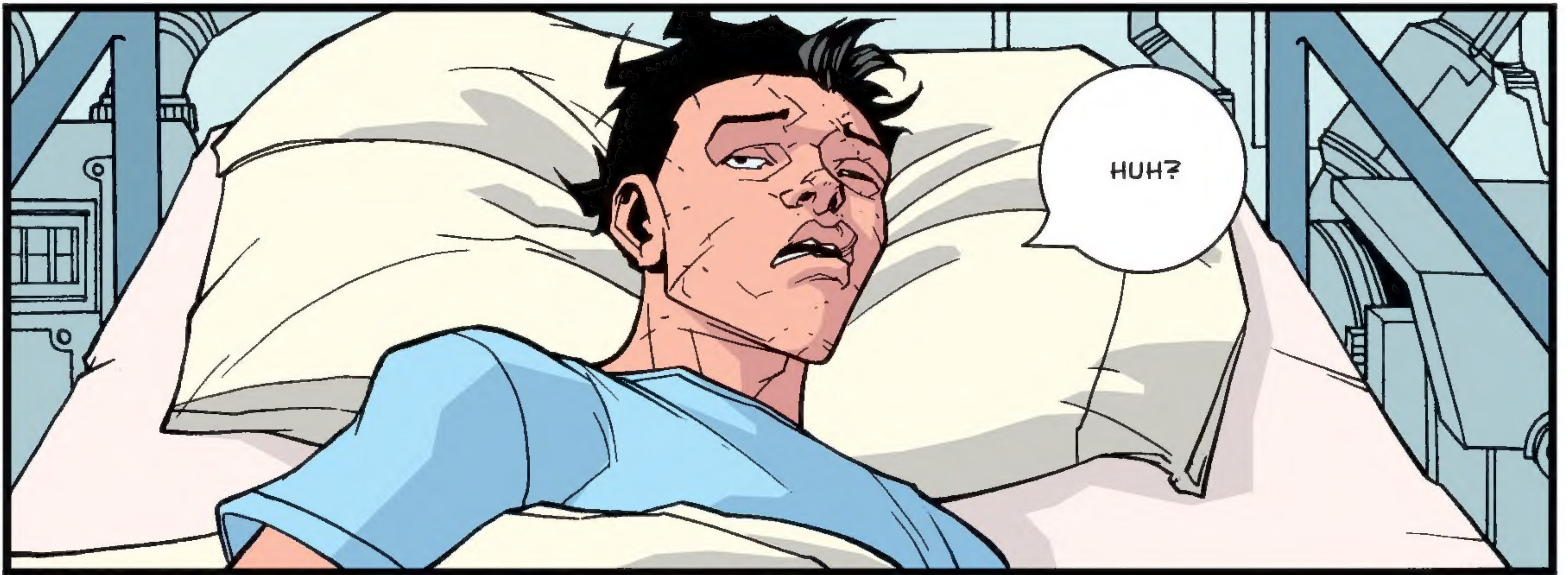




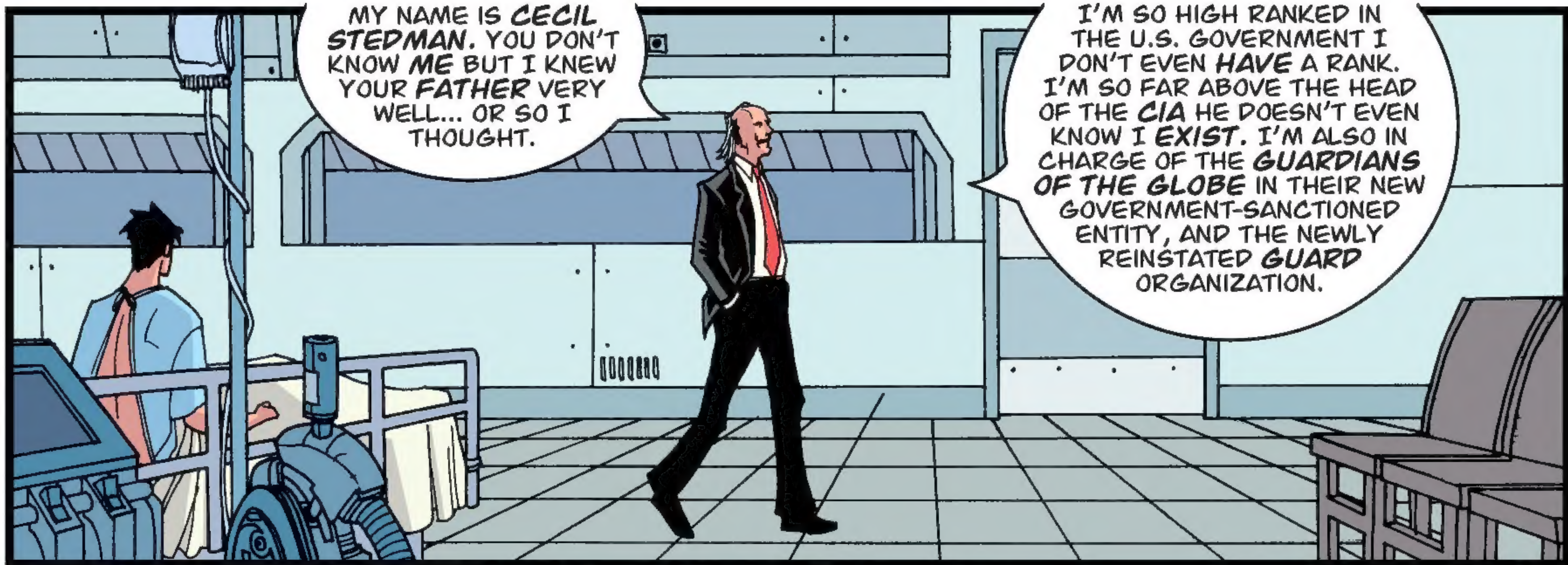






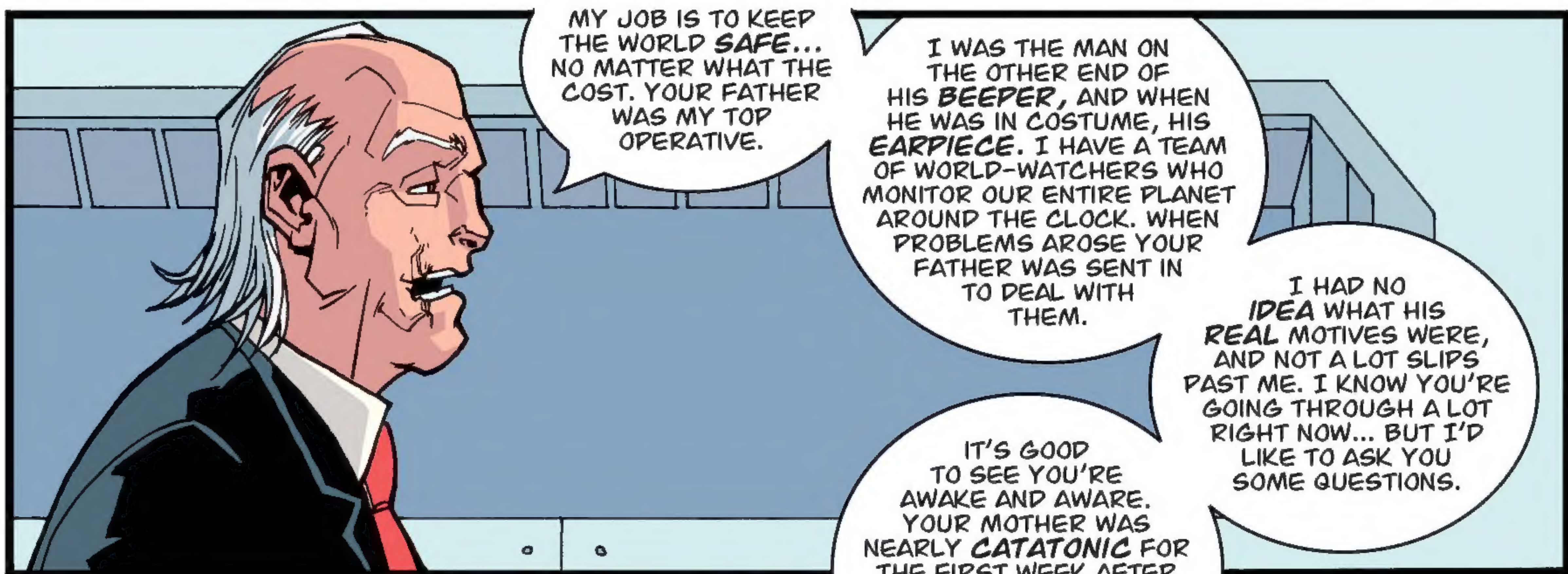






MY NAME IS **CECIL STEPMAN**. YOU DON'T KNOW ME BUT I KNEW YOUR FATHER VERY WELL... OR SO I THOUGHT.

I'M SO HIGH RANKED IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT I DON'T EVEN HAVE A RANK. I'M SO FAR ABOVE THE HEAD OF THE CIA HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I EXIST. I'M ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE **GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE** IN THEIR NEW GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED ENTITY, AND THE NEWLY REINSTITATED **GUARD** ORGANIZATION.



MY JOB IS TO KEEP THE WORLD **SAFE**... NO MATTER WHAT THE COST. YOUR FATHER WAS MY TOP OPERATIVE.

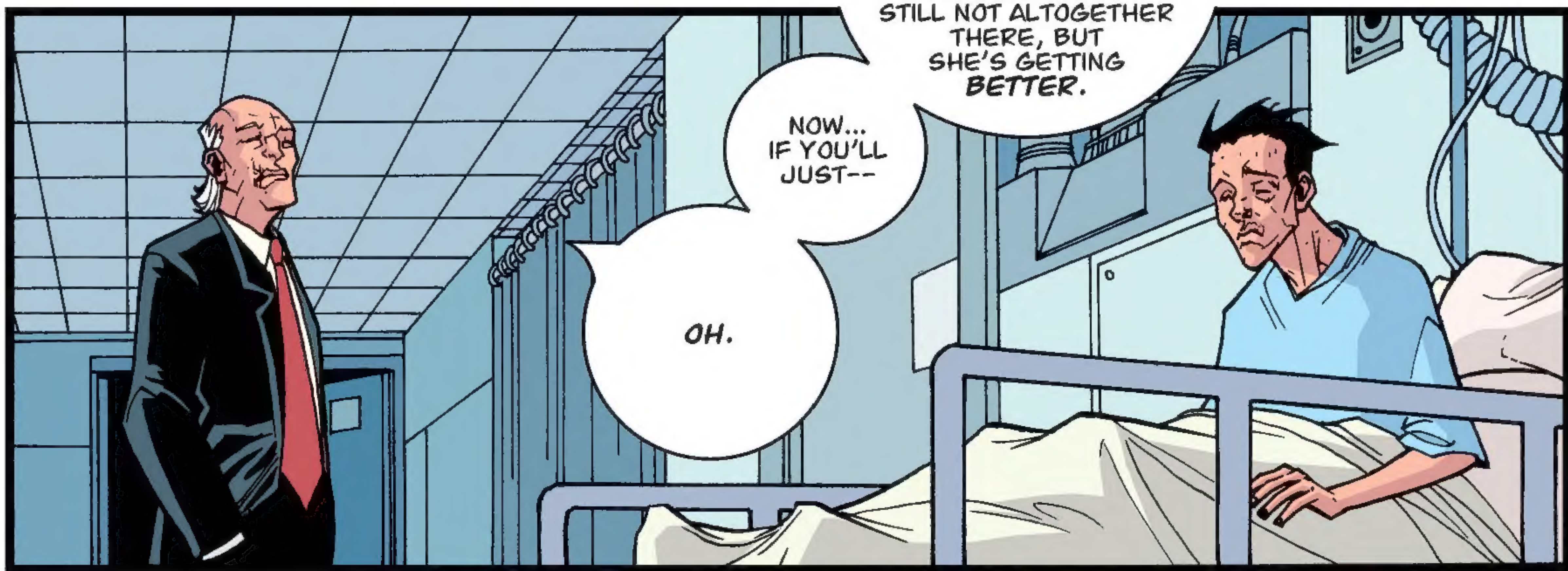
I WAS THE MAN ON THE OTHER END OF HIS **BEEPER**, AND WHEN HE WAS IN COSTUME, HIS **EARPIECE**. I HAVE A TEAM OF WORLD-WATCHERS WHO MONITOR OUR ENTIRE PLANET AROUND THE CLOCK. WHEN PROBLEMS AROSE YOUR FATHER WAS SENT IN TO DEAL WITH THEM.

I HAD NO **IDEA** WHAT HIS **REAL** MOTIVES WERE, AND NOT A LOT SLIPS PAST ME. I KNOW YOU'RE GOING THROUGH A LOT RIGHT NOW... BUT I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE AWAKE AND AWARE. YOUR MOTHER WAS NEARLY **CATATONIC** FOR THE FIRST WEEK AFTER THE EVENT... SHE'S STILL NOT ALTOGETHER THERE, BUT SHE'S GETTING **BETTER**.

NOW... IF YOU'LL JUST--

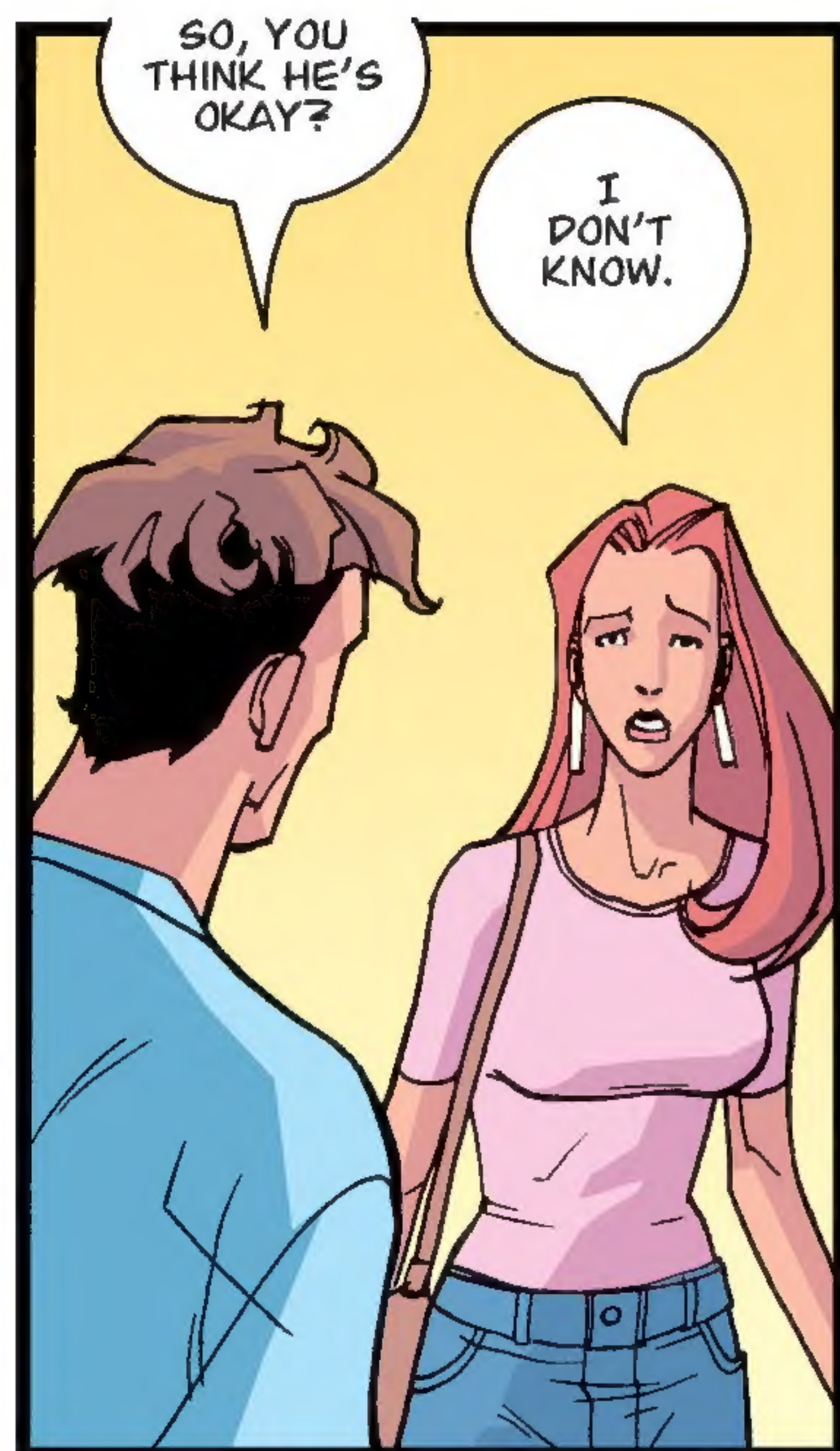
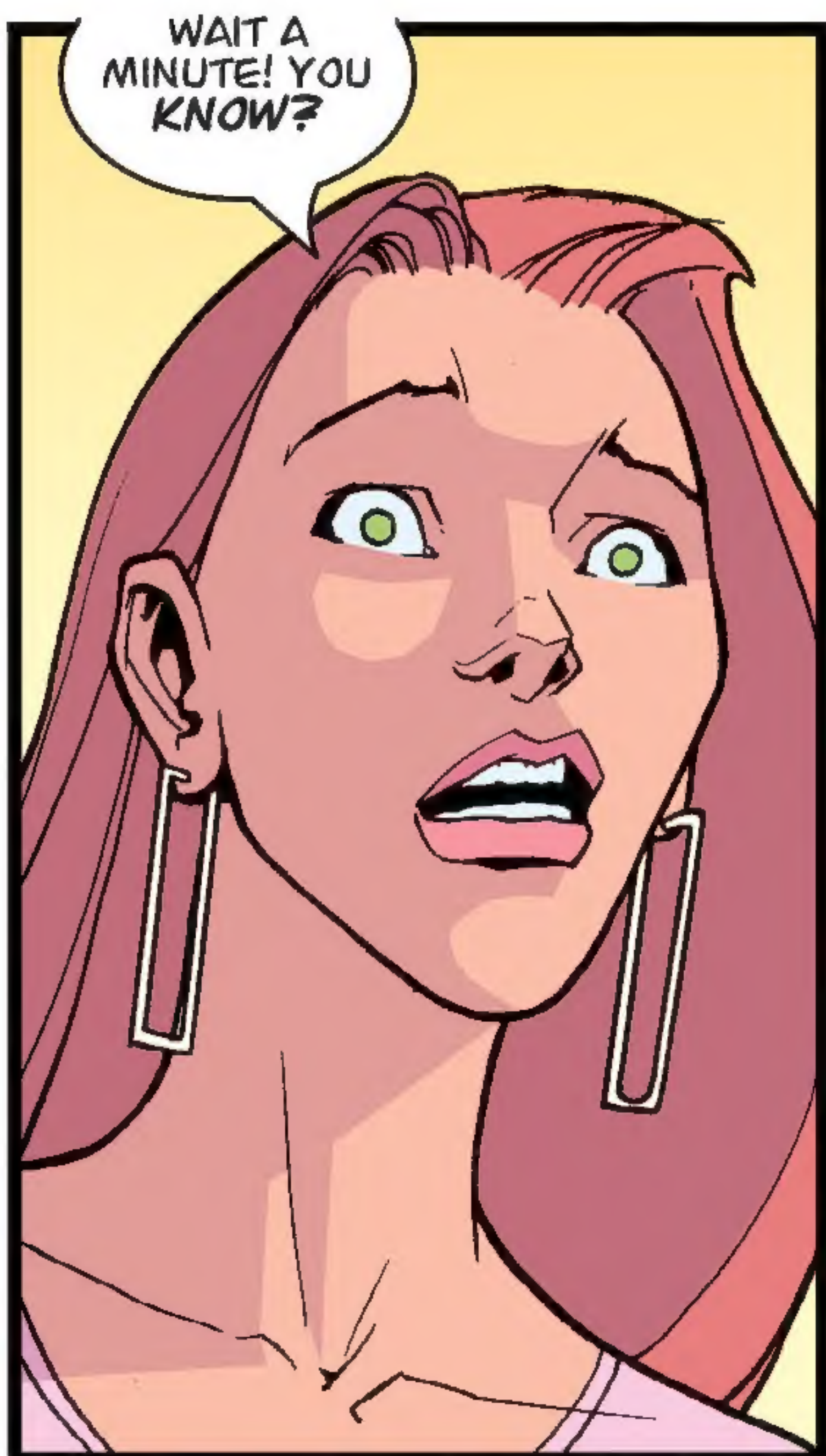
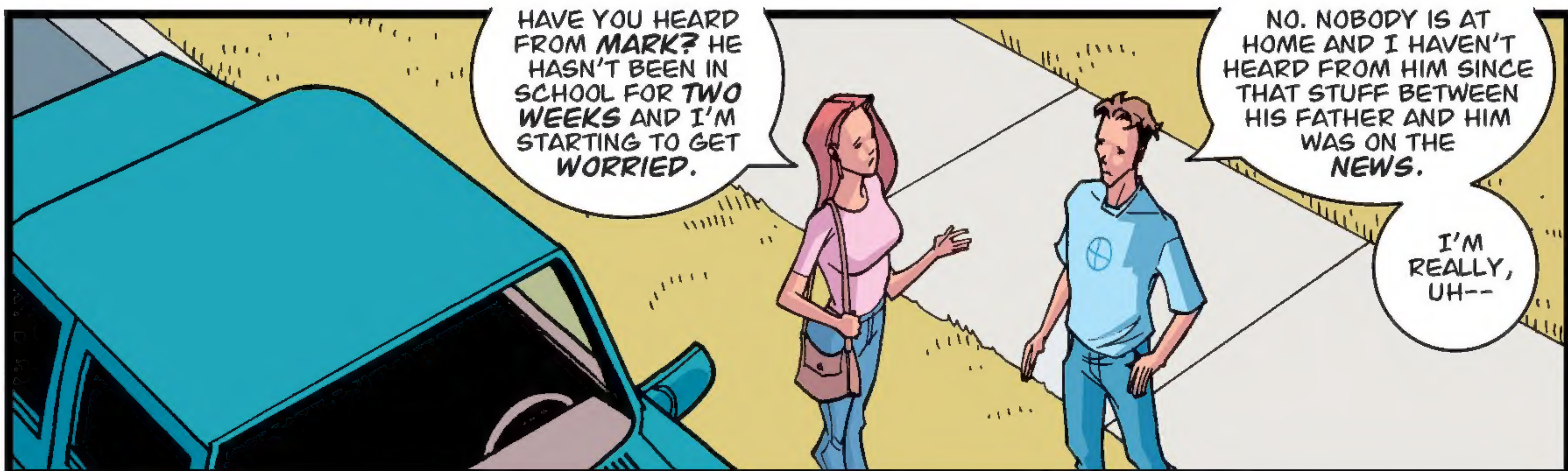
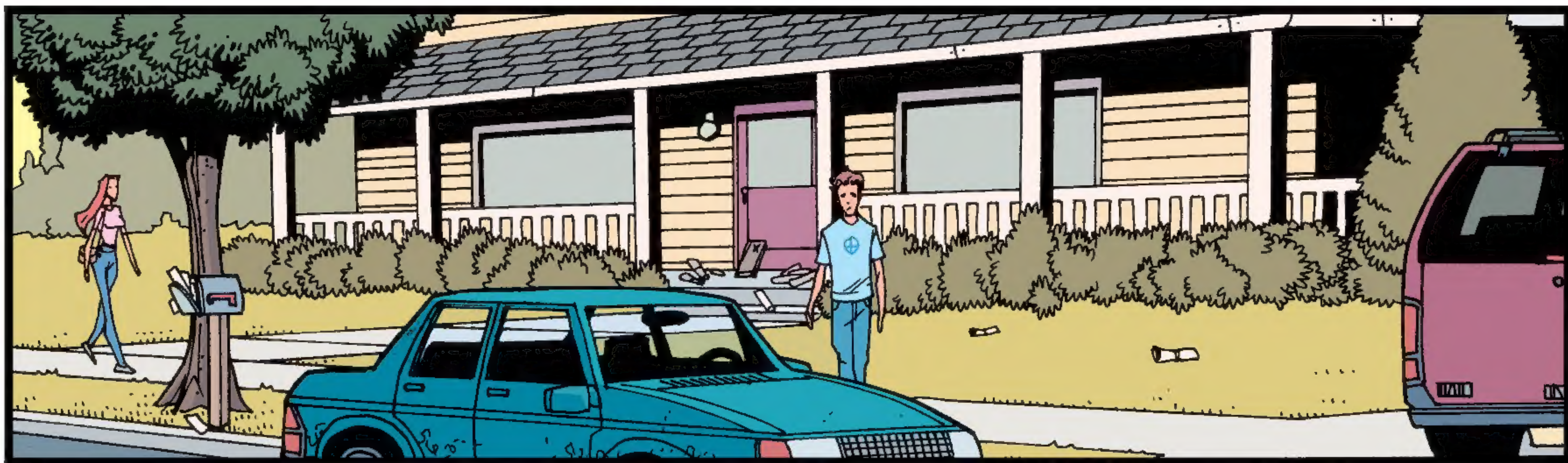
OH.



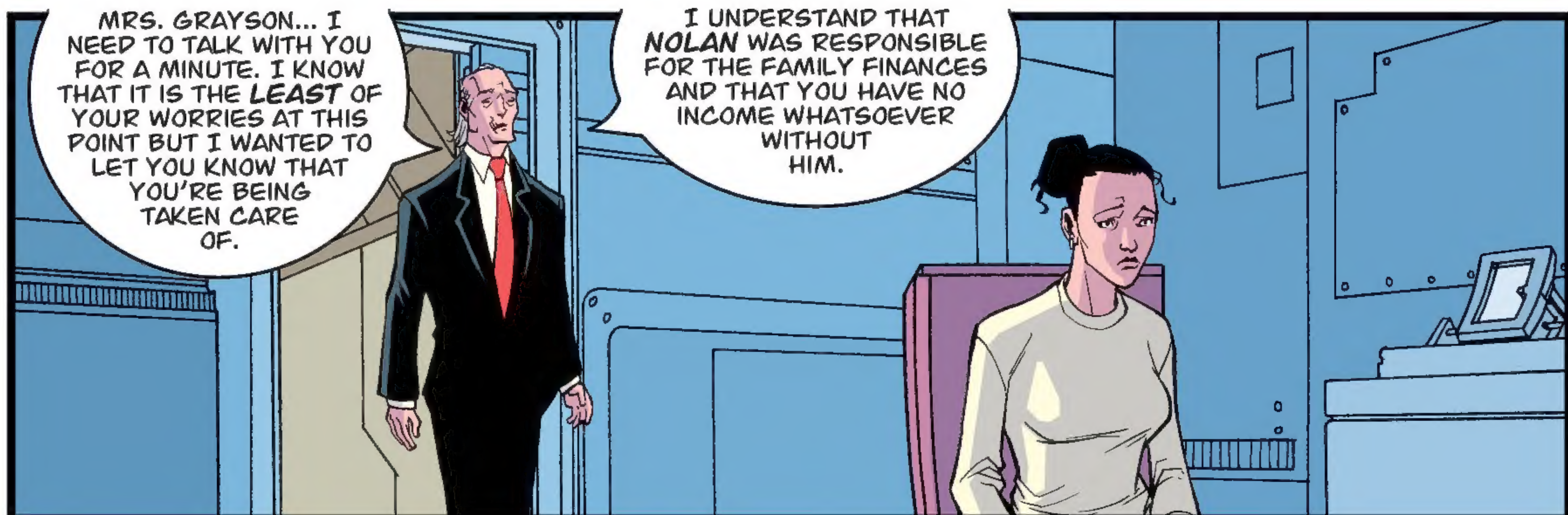
ANOTHER TIME THEN.

SORRY TO BOTHER.



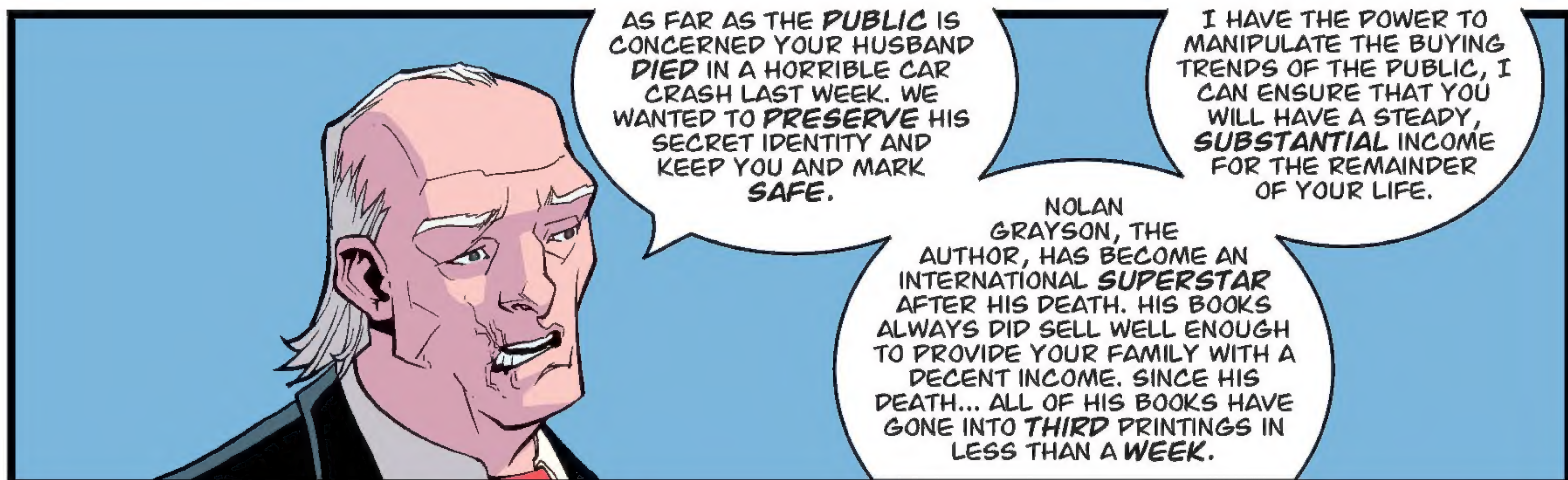






MRS. GRAYSON... I NEED TO TALK WITH YOU FOR A MINUTE. I KNOW THAT IT IS THE **LEAST** OF YOUR WORRIES AT THIS POINT BUT I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE BEING TAKEN CARE OF.

I UNDERSTAND THAT **NOLAN** WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAMILY FINANCES AND THAT YOU HAVE NO INCOME WHATSOEVER WITHOUT HIM.



AS FAR AS THE **PUBLIC** IS CONCERNED YOUR HUSBAND **DIED** IN A HORRIBLE CAR CRASH LAST WEEK. WE WANTED TO **PRESERVE** HIS SECRET IDENTITY AND KEEP YOU AND MARK **SAFE**.

I HAVE THE POWER TO MANIPULATE THE BUYING TRENDS OF THE PUBLIC, I CAN ENSURE THAT YOU WILL HAVE A STEADY, **SUBSTANTIAL** INCOME FOR THE REMAINDER OF YOUR LIFE.

NOLAN GRAYSON, THE AUTHOR, HAS BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL **SUPERSTAR** AFTER HIS DEATH. HIS BOOKS ALWAYS DID SELL WELL ENOUGH TO PROVIDE YOUR FAMILY WITH A DECENT INCOME. SINCE HIS DEATH... ALL OF HIS BOOKS HAVE GONE INTO **THIRD** PRINTINGS IN LESS THAN A WEEK.

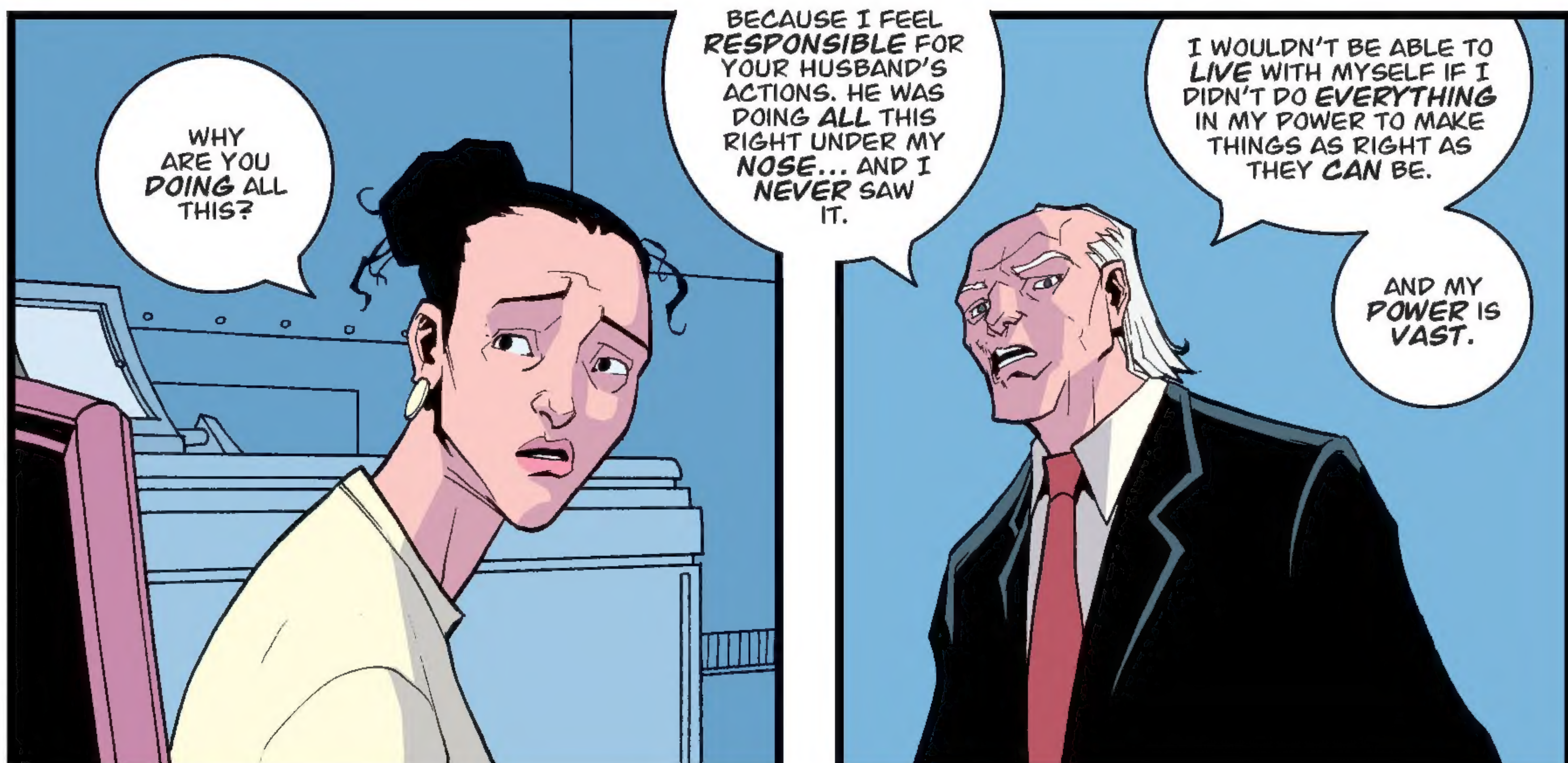


A **PROXY** HAS ATTENDED A FAUX FUNERAL, AND BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS. DO NOT BE ALARMED IF YOU SEE YOURSELF ON THE NEWS. OUR **HOLOGRAPHICS** DIVISION IS SECOND TO **NONE**.

THIS HAS BEEN DONE TO ENSURE THAT WHEN YOU ARE **READY**... YOU AND YOUR SON CAN RETURN TO YOUR **HOME** AND RESUME YOUR DAILY LIVES... WITH AS LITTLE **ADDITIONAL** PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH AS POSSIBLE.

I KNOW THIS IS ALL A LITTLE **OVERWHELMING** AND I APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THAT'S GONE ON... I JUST HOPE THAT I CAN **HELP** YOU IN SOME SMALL WAY--

WHY?



WHY ARE YOU **DOING** ALL THIS?

BECAUSE I FEEL **RESPONSIBLE** FOR YOUR HUSBAND'S ACTIONS. HE WAS DOING **ALL** THIS RIGHT UNDER MY **NOSE**... AND I **NEVER** SAW IT.

I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO **LIVE** WITH MYSELF IF I DIDN'T DO **EVERYTHING** IN MY POWER TO MAKE THINGS AS RIGHT AS THEY CAN BE.

AND MY **POWER** IS VAST.





OH, GOOD... YOU'RE HERE. I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU WOULD BE.

WE HAVE BEEN USING THIS BASE AS A TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT CAN SECURE US A MORE **SUITABLE** FACILITY.

THE FORMER GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE HEADQUARTERS IS STILL OWNED JOINTLY BY **WAR WOMAN'S** CORPORATION AND **DARKWING'S** ESTATE.

THIS FACILITY IS STILL SUFFICIENT FOR OUR NEEDS.

ROBOT, I REALLY NEED YOUR **HELP**. INVINCIBLE HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE THAT FIGHT WITH OMNI-MAN WAS **TELEVISED** AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE COULD BE.

HE COULD BE DEAD! OR LYING SOMEWHERE **NEAR** DEAD.

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CALL IN A **FAVOR** FROM SOMEONE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND TRY AND FIND HIM? YOU COULD USE **SPY** SATELLITES OR SOMETHING.

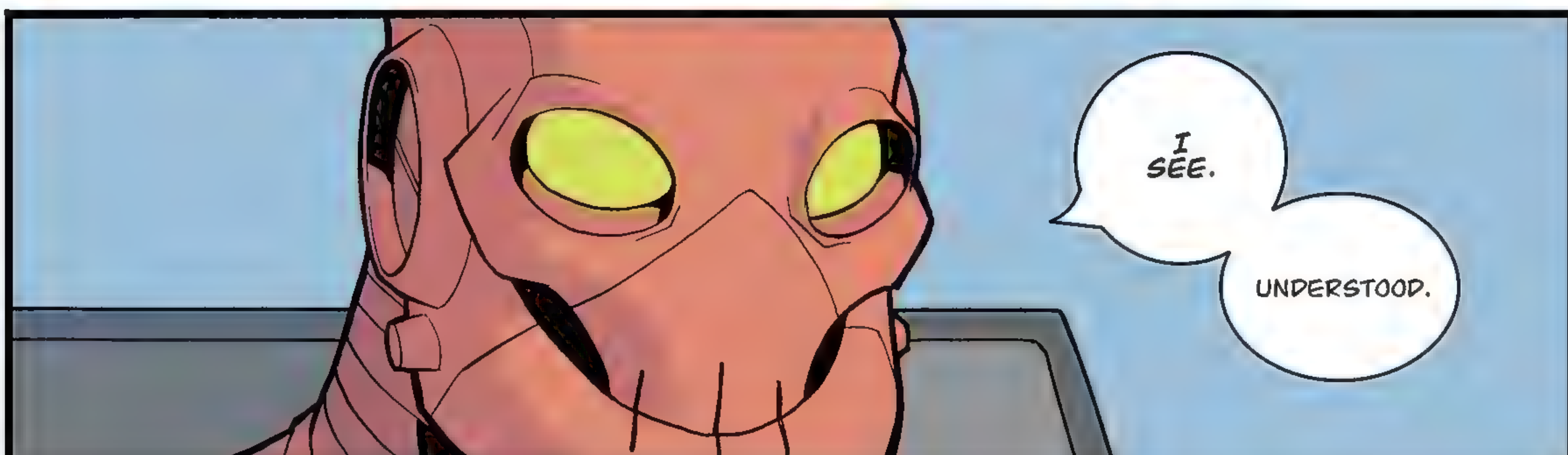
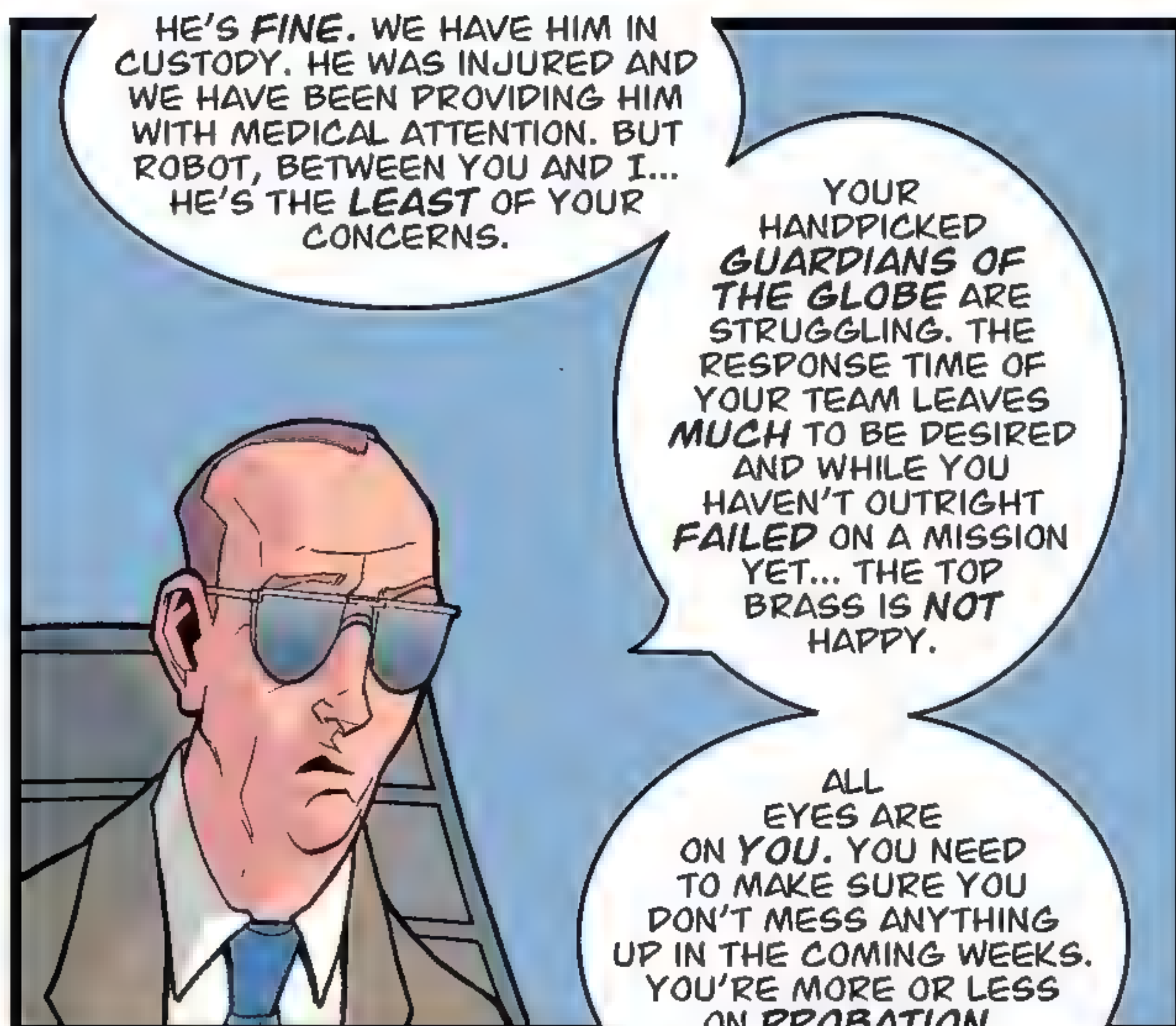
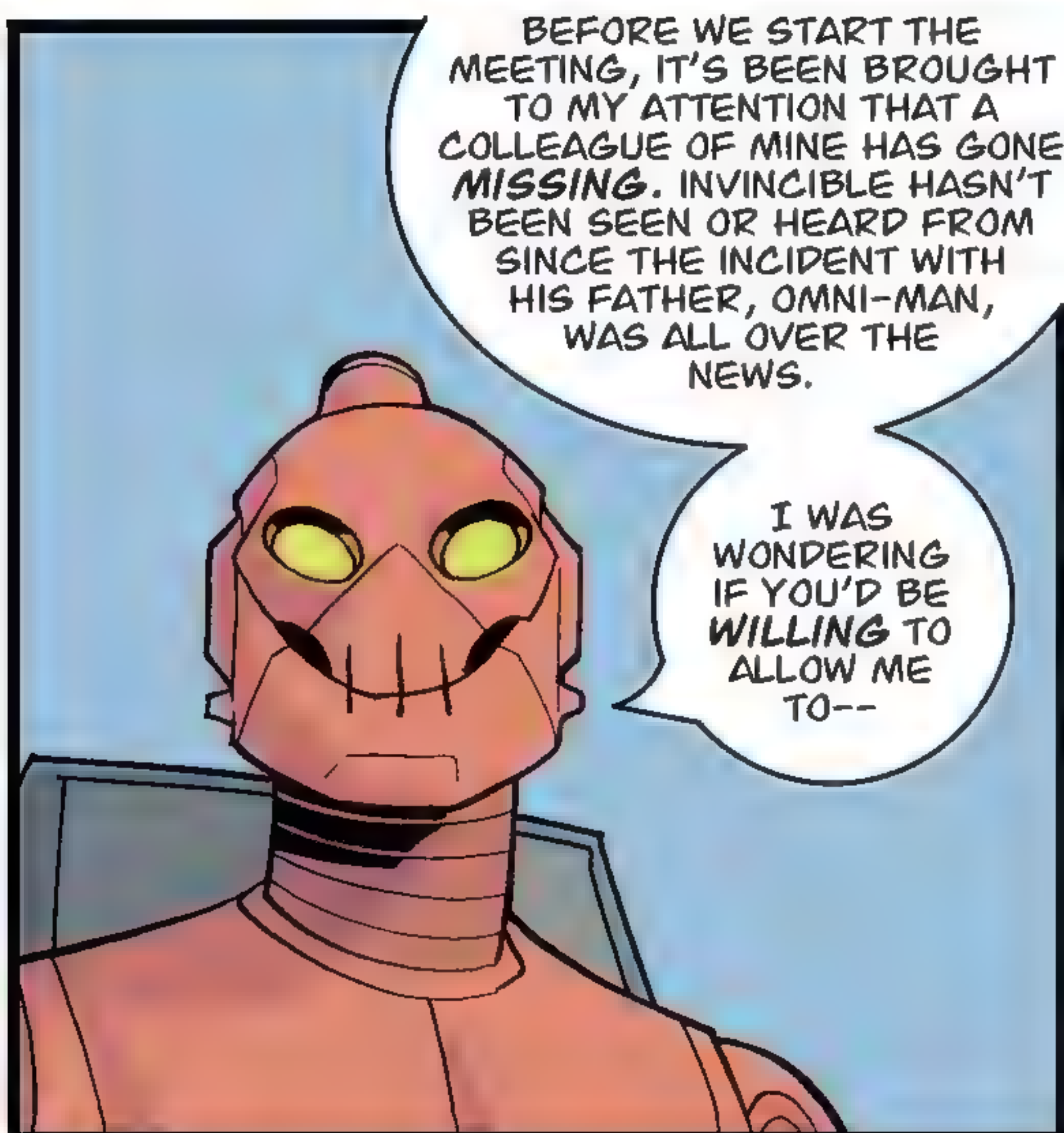
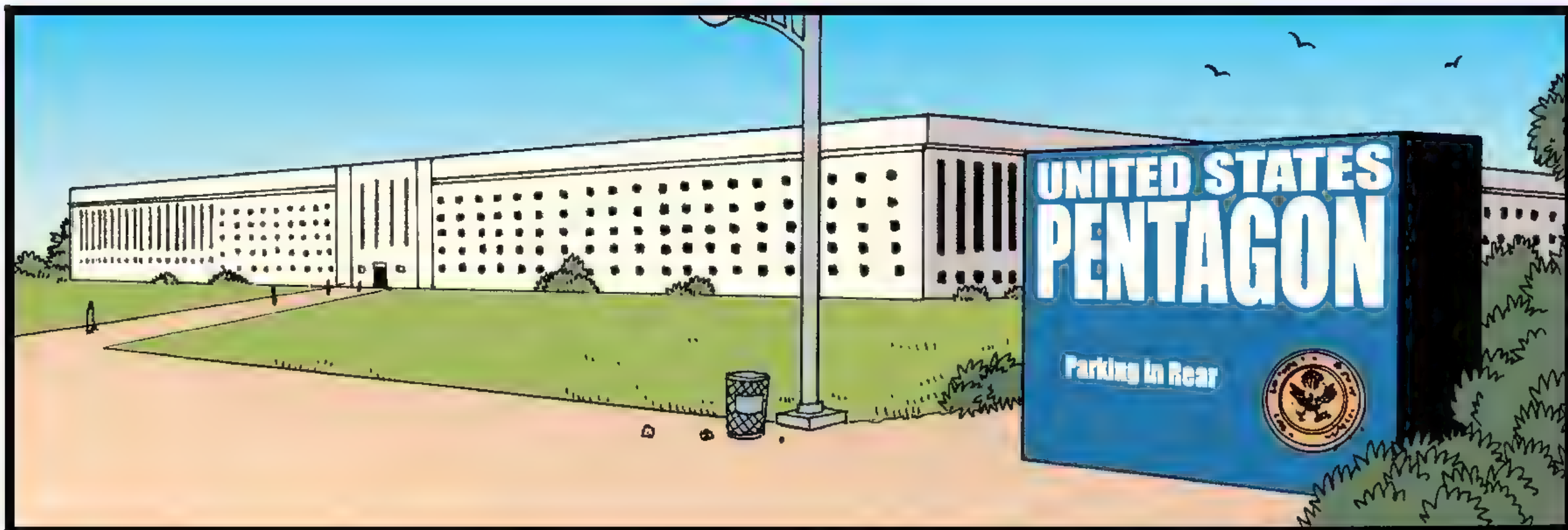
I WAS NOT AWARE OF INVINCIBLE'S DISAPPEARANCE. I WILL DO MY BEST TO LOCATE HIM. YOU HAVE MY WORD.

THANKS, ROBOT. PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS YOU FIND SOMETHING OUT.

EVE, I--

WHAT GAVE YOU THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE **SPEAKING** AGAIN?



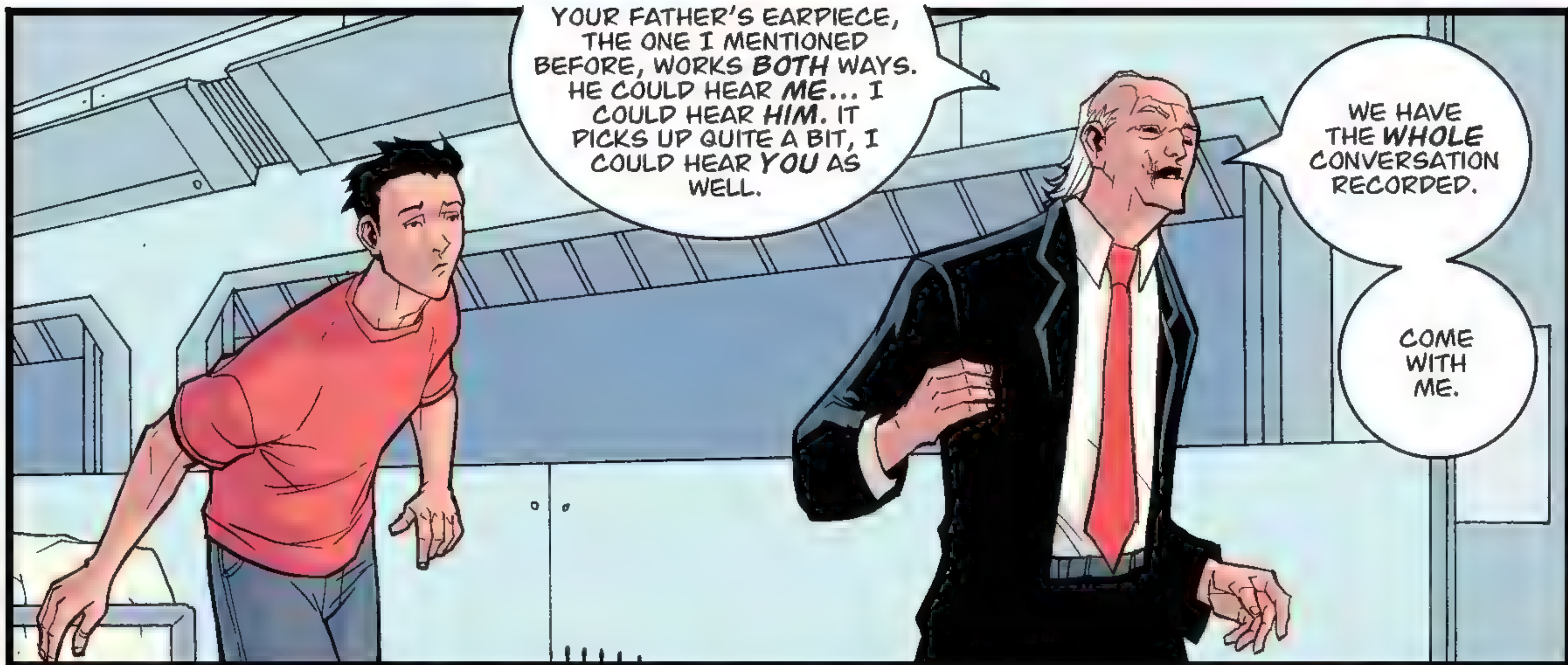




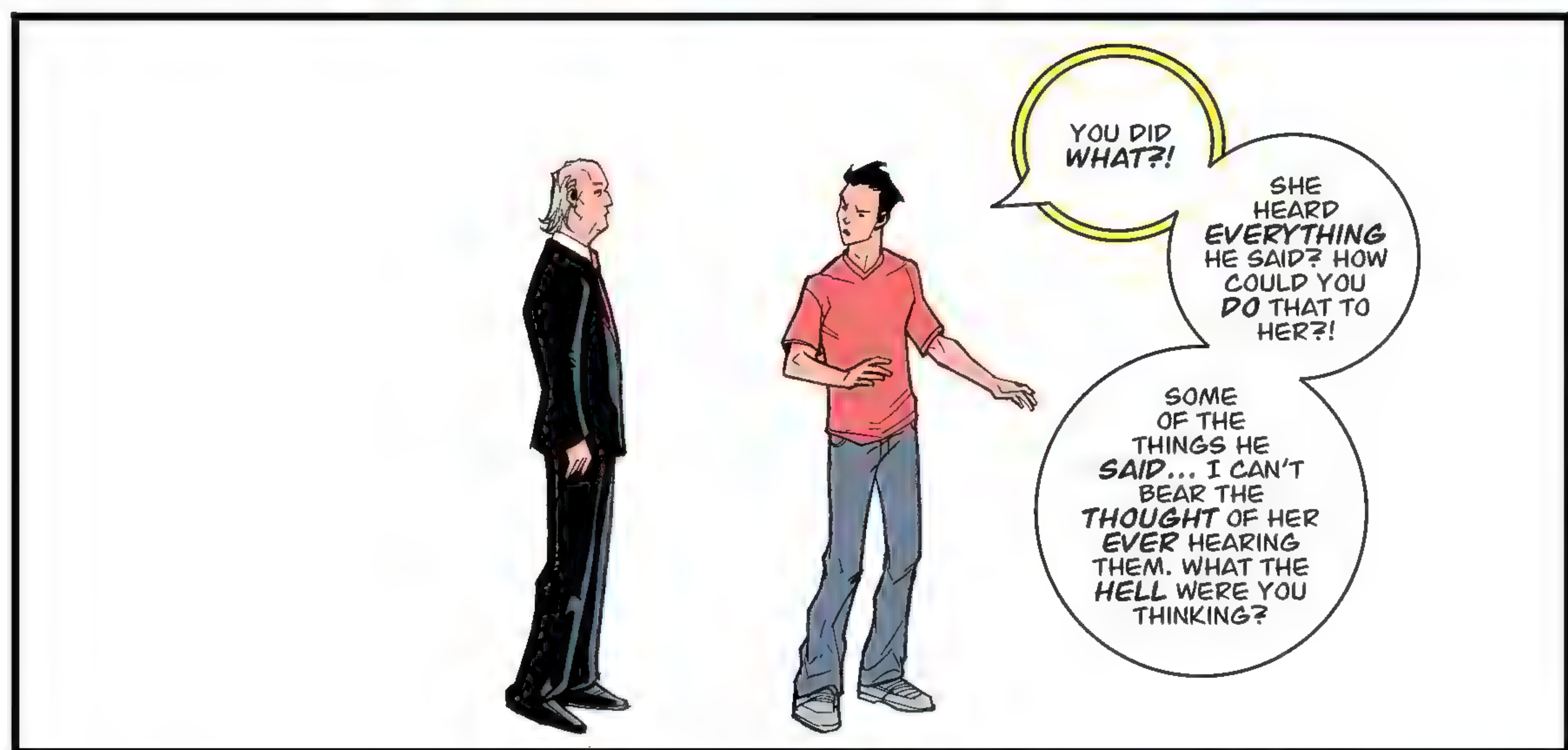
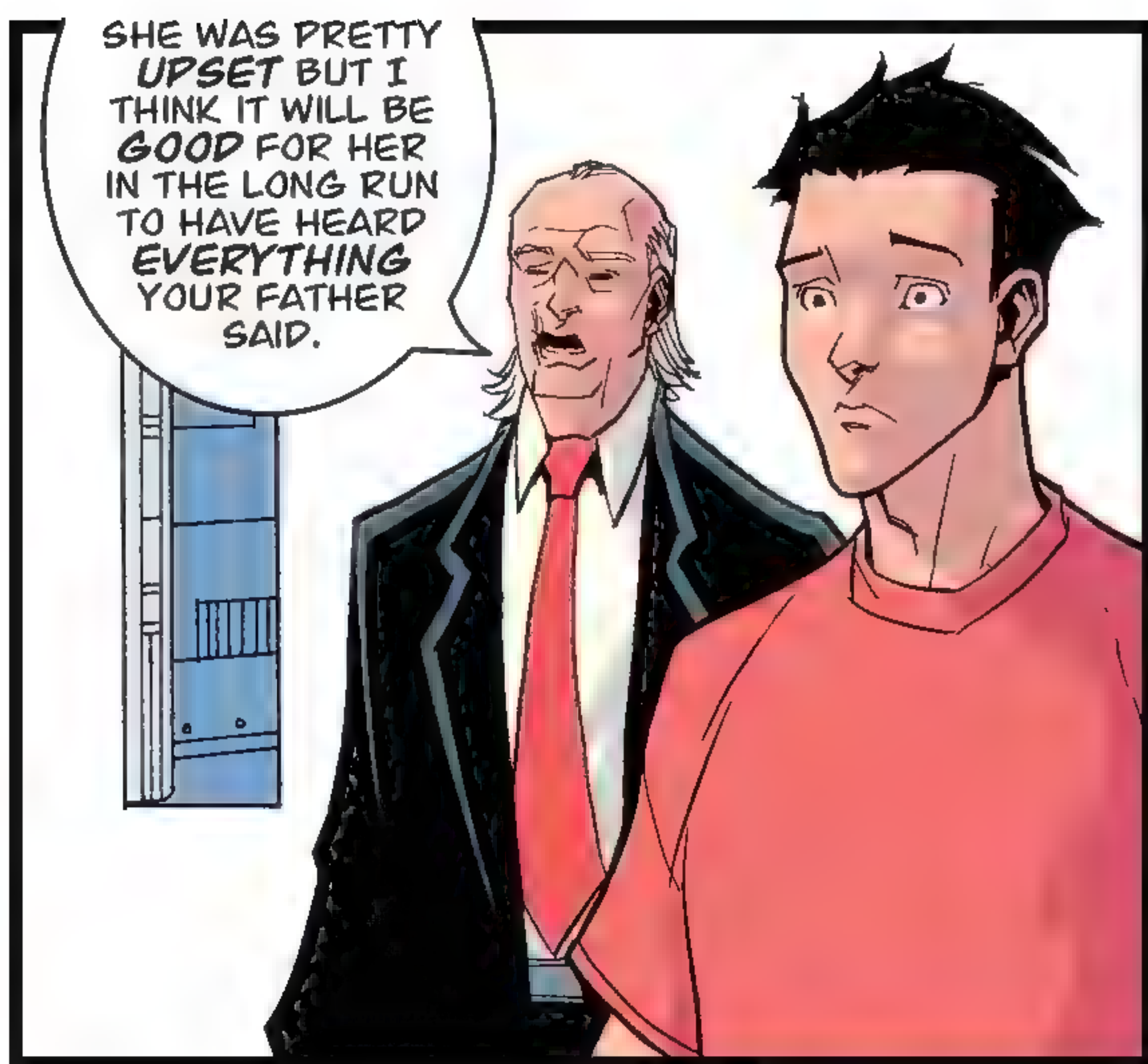
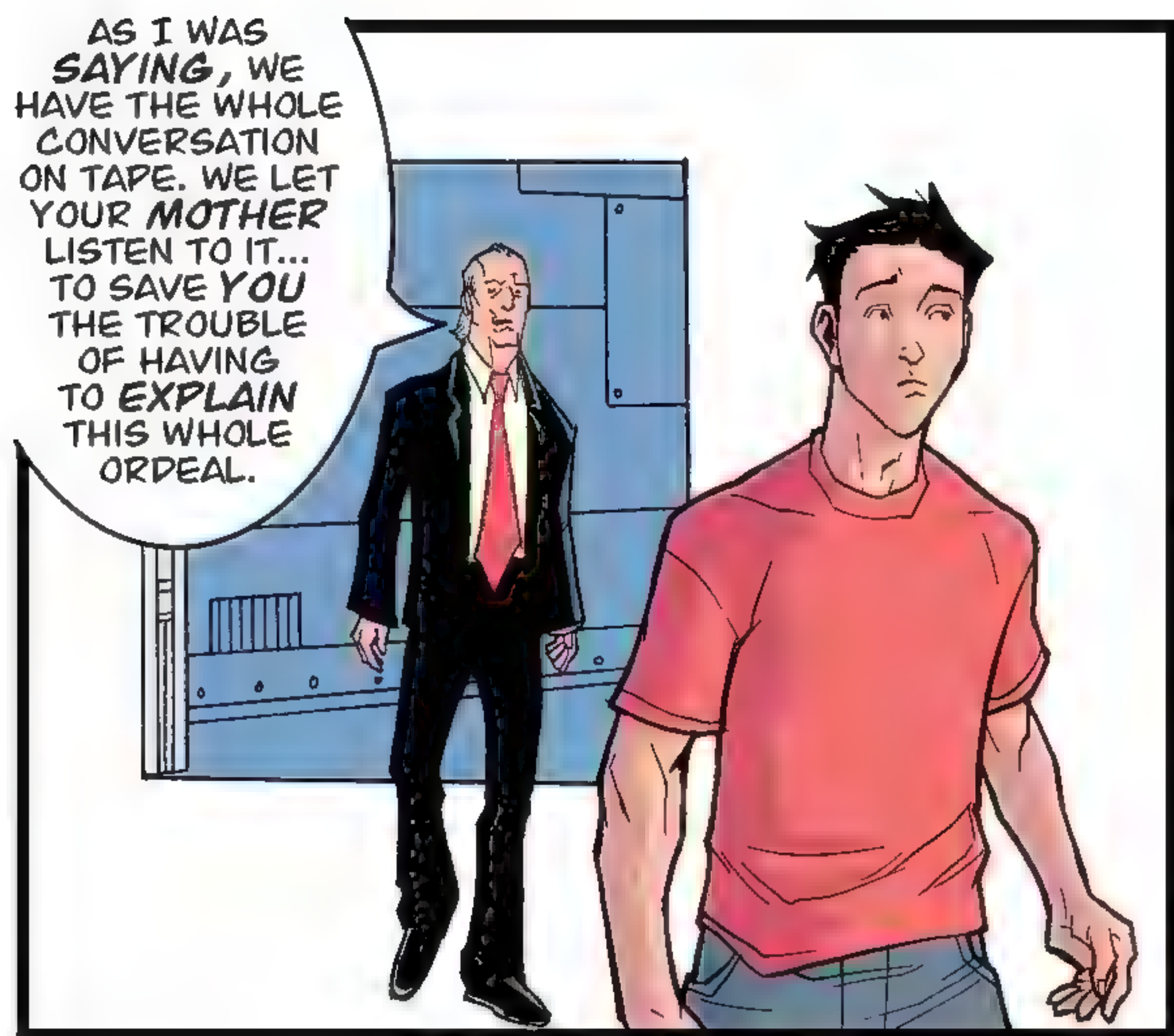


YEAH... TO SAY THE **LEAST**. IT'S PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU WERE THE SON OF OMNI-MAN. NOW THE PUBLIC SEES YOU AND OMNI-MAN IN A KNOCK-DOWN, DRAG-OUT BRAWL THAT RESULTED IN **THOUSANDS** OF LOST LIVES, AND OVER **TWICE** AS MANY INJURIES.

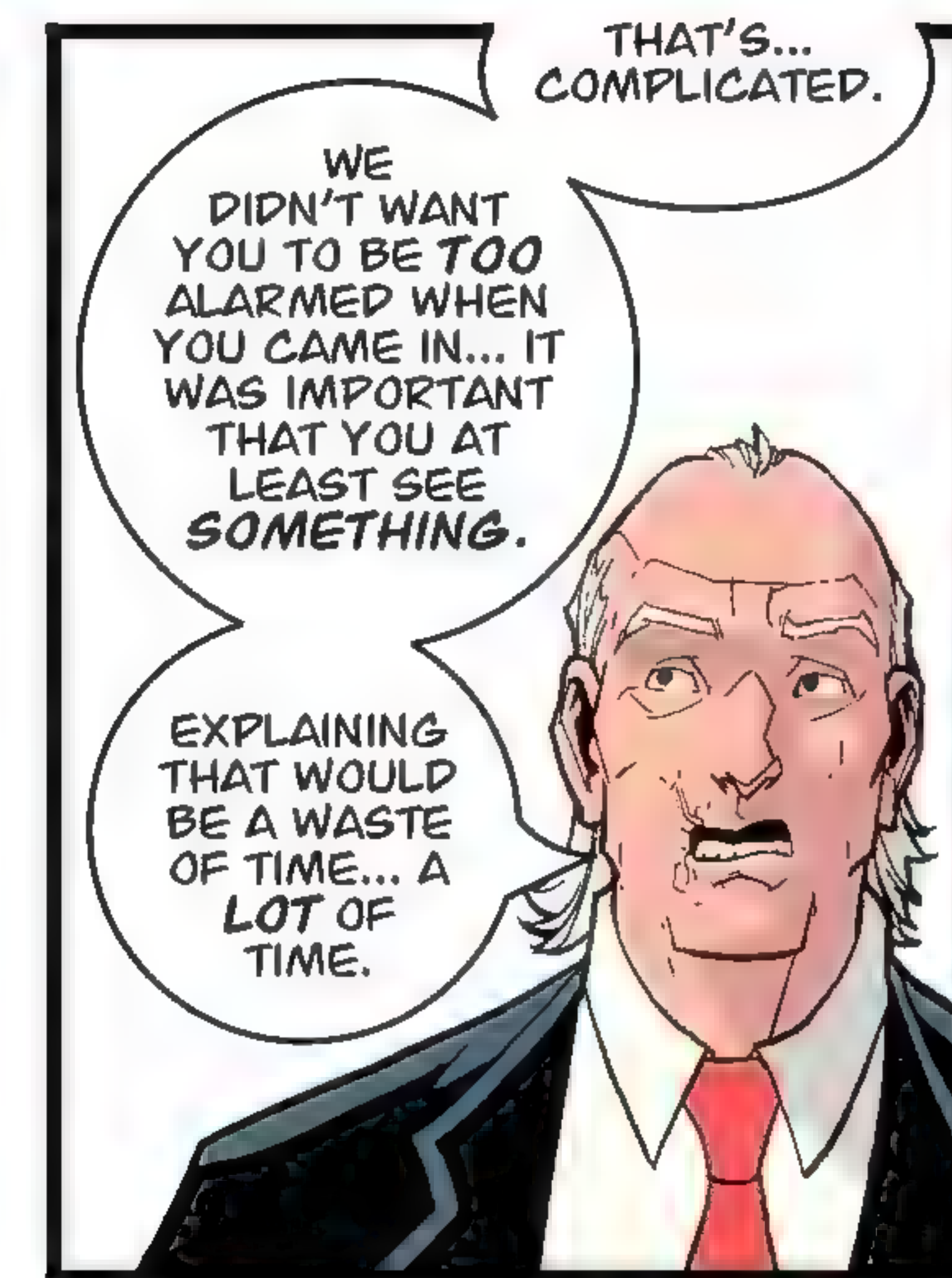
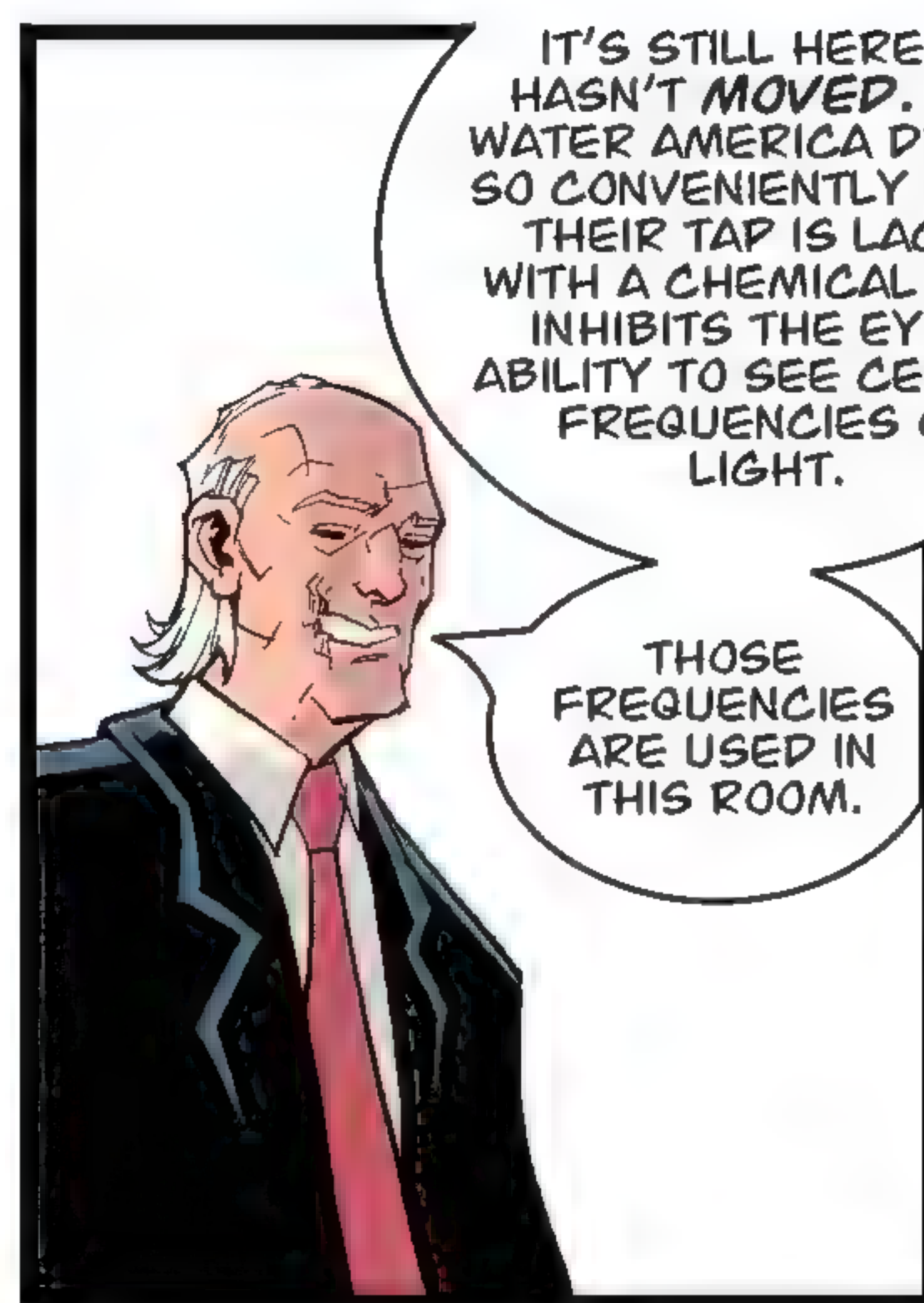
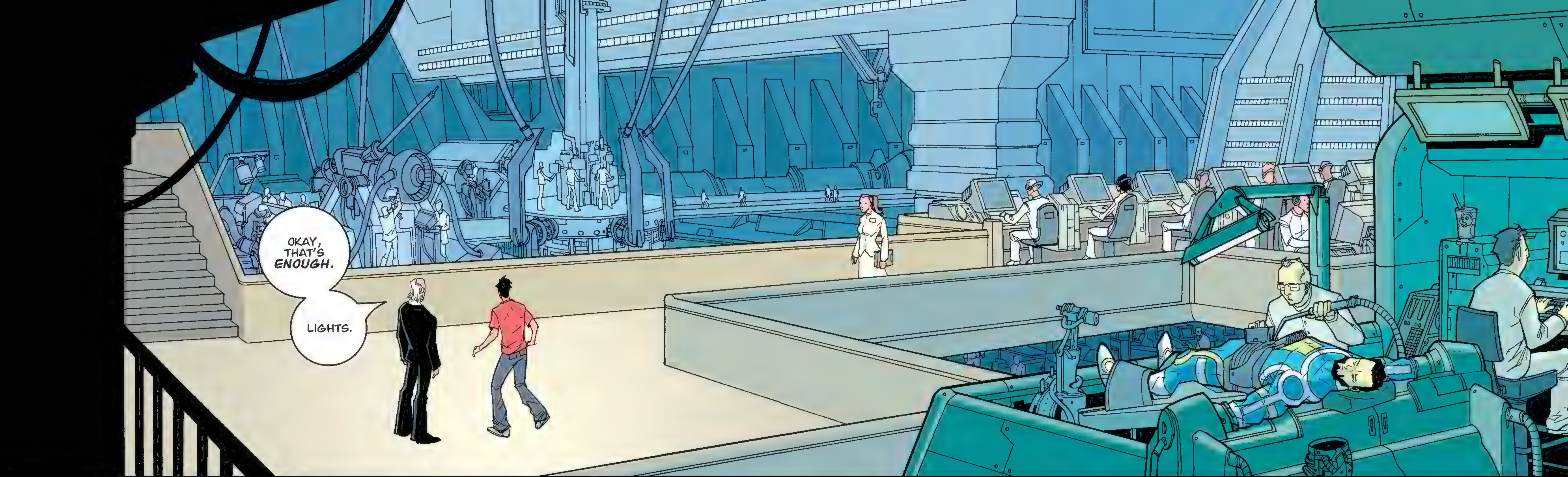
NOBODY KNOWS **WHY**, THOUGH. NOBODY KNOWS YOU WERE **PROTECTING** THIS PLANET FROM YOUR FATHER. NOBODY KNOWS THAT YOU WERE **RISKING YOUR LIFE** FOR THE GOOD OF US ALL.















YOU  
MEAN  
ME?

PRETTY  
MUCH, YEAH.  
WE'VE BEEN KEEPING  
AN EYE ON YOU SINCE  
YOUR FATHER TOLD US  
YOU WERE DEVELOPING  
POWERS OF YOUR OWN.  
YOU'VE IMPROVED  
VASTLY IN A VERY  
SHORT AMOUNT OF  
TIME.

YOUR  
FATHER HIMSELF  
SAID THAT YOU WILL  
EVENTUALLY BE JUST  
AS POWERFUL AS HIM.  
WE NEED YOU... AND  
AS YOU ALREADY  
KNOW... WE HAVE A  
LOT TO OFFER YOU  
IN RETURN.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
SAY?

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS JUST BE  
A SUPERHERO AND ALLOW YOU  
TO TELL ME WHERE I NEED  
TO BE WHEN BAD STUFF  
HAPPENS?

THAT'S THE  
GIST OF IT,  
KID.

AND IN  
RETURN YOU'LL  
TAKE CARE OF MY  
MOM AND I GET A  
SCHOLARSHIP?

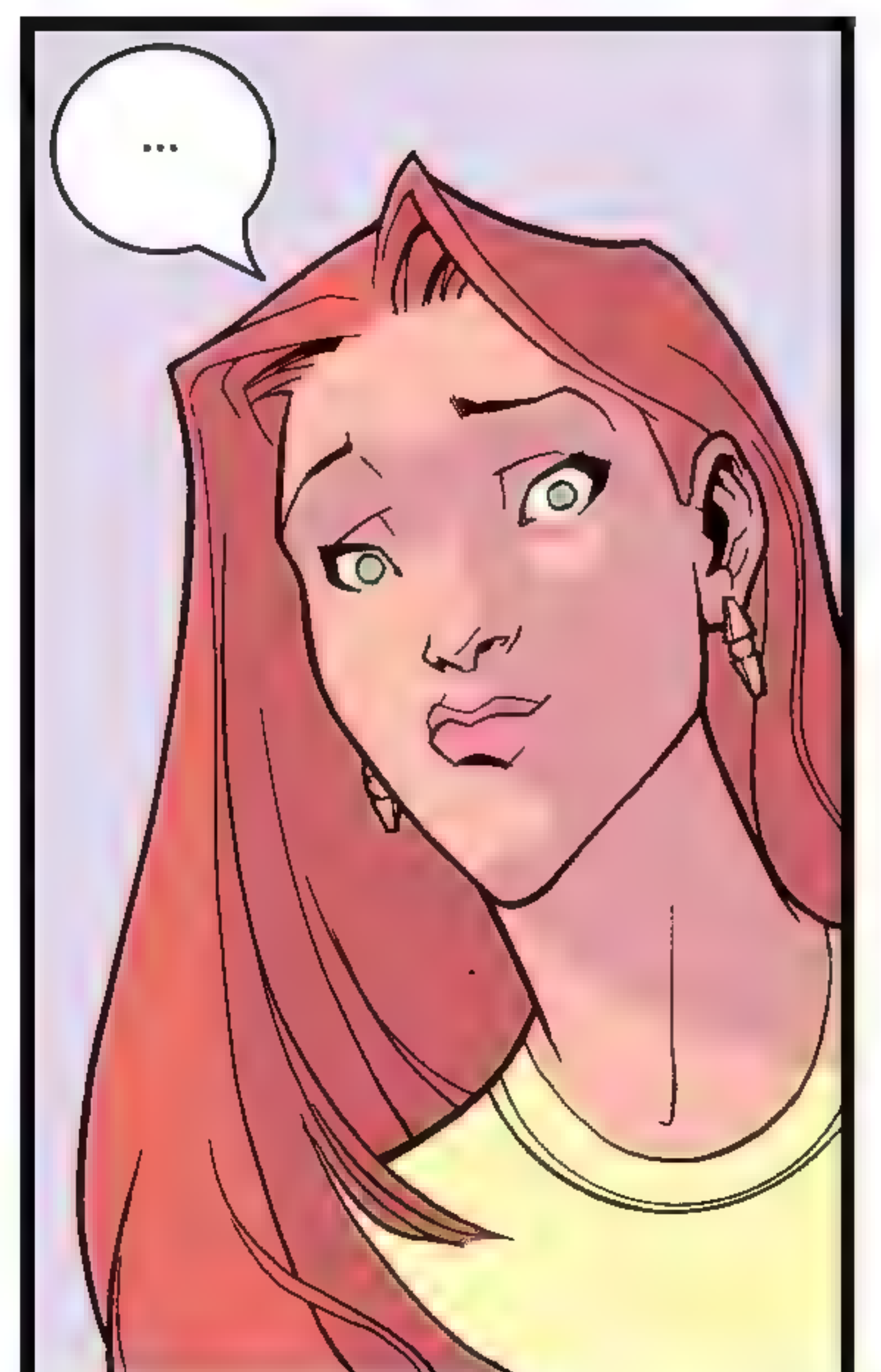
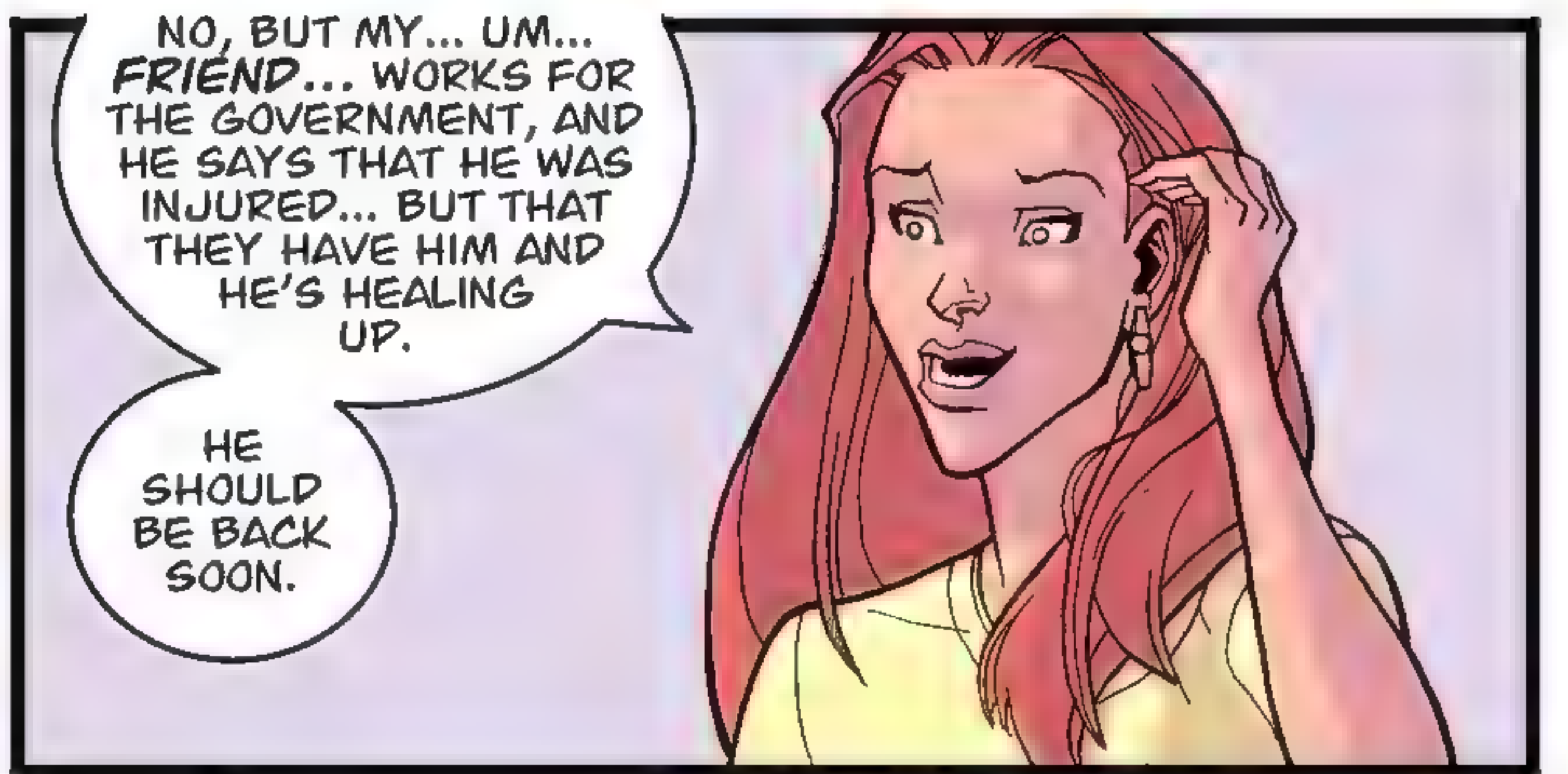
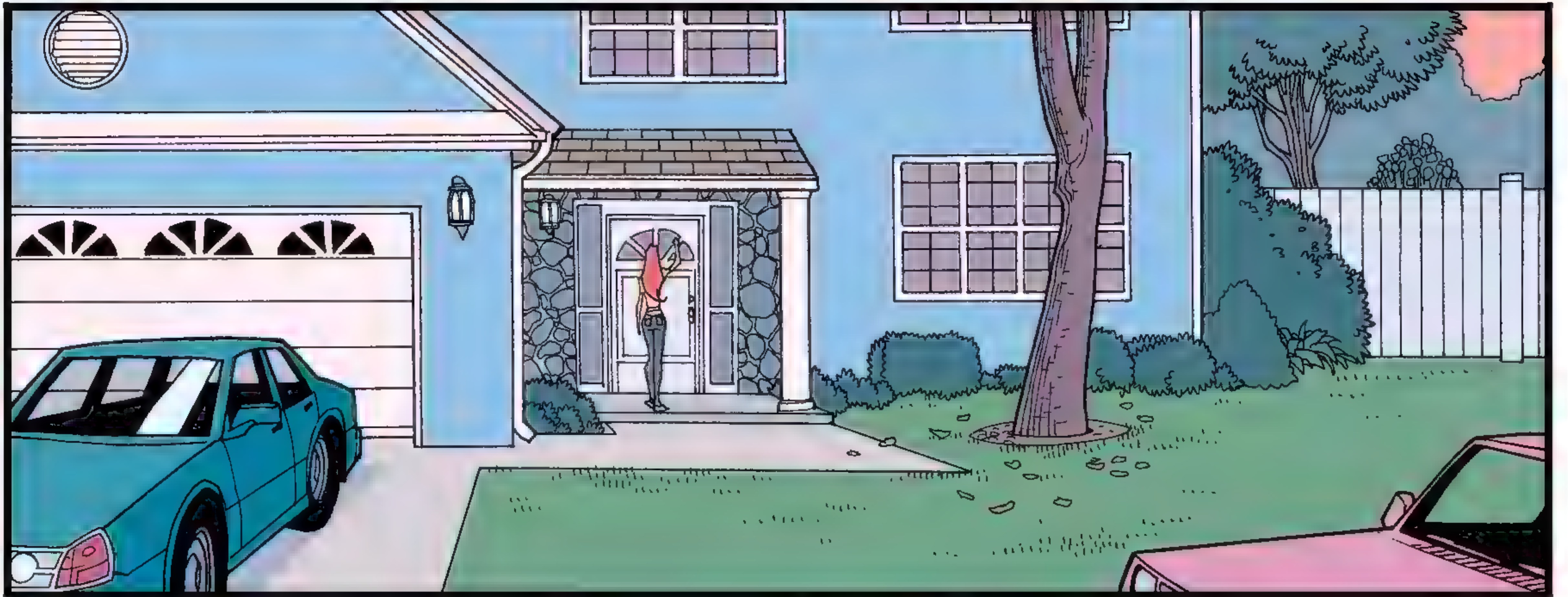
COUNT  
ME IN.



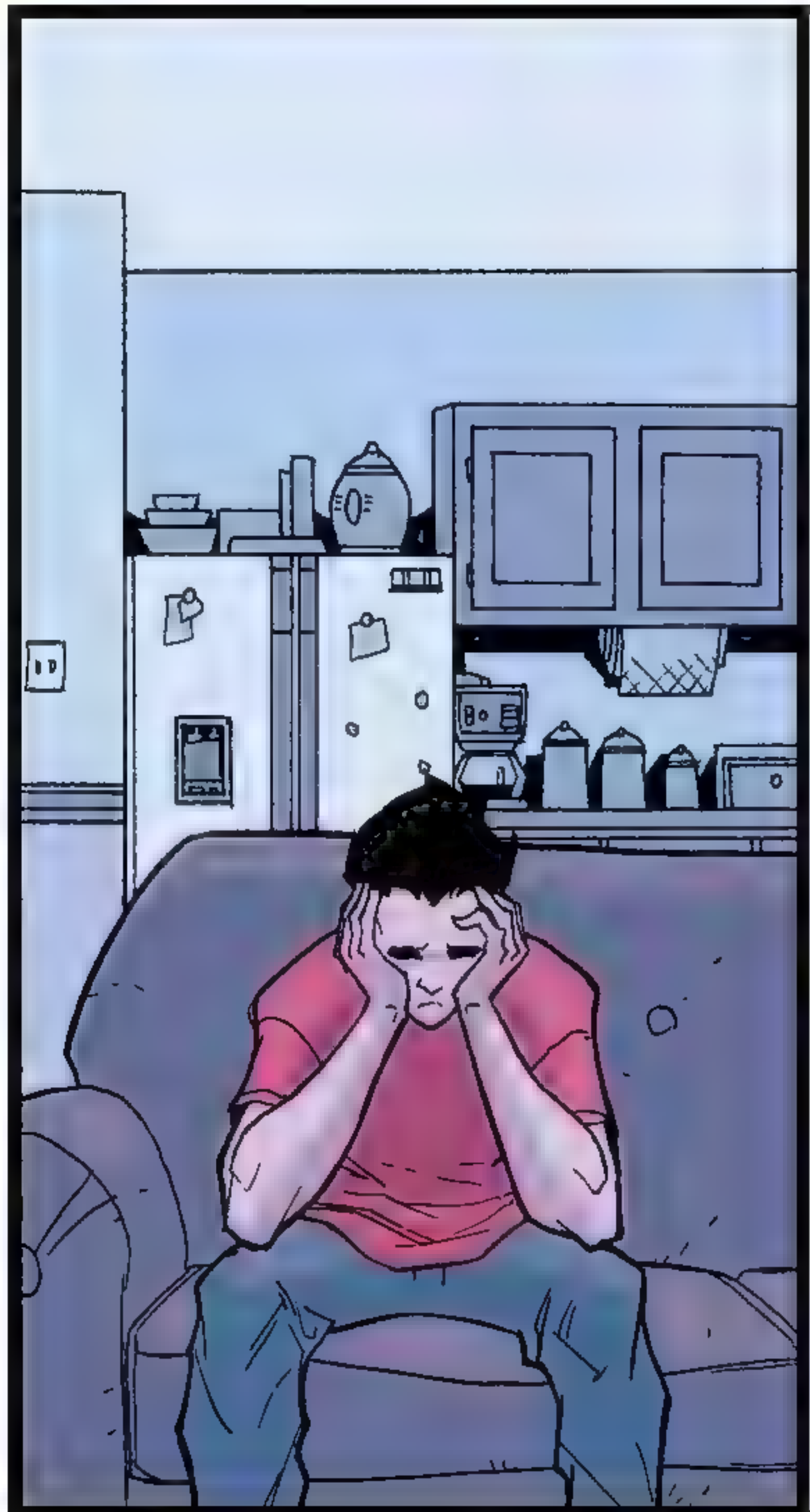
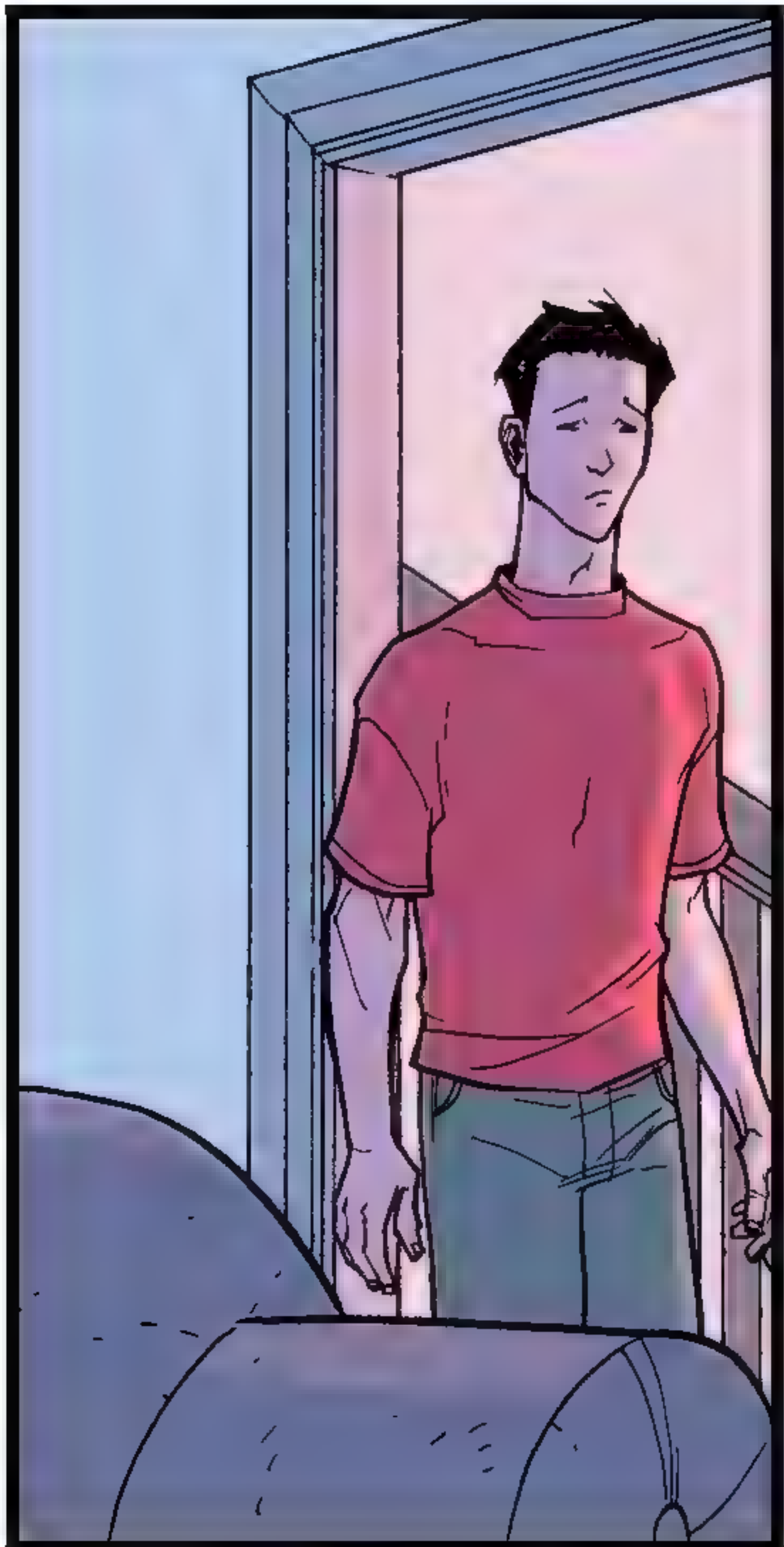
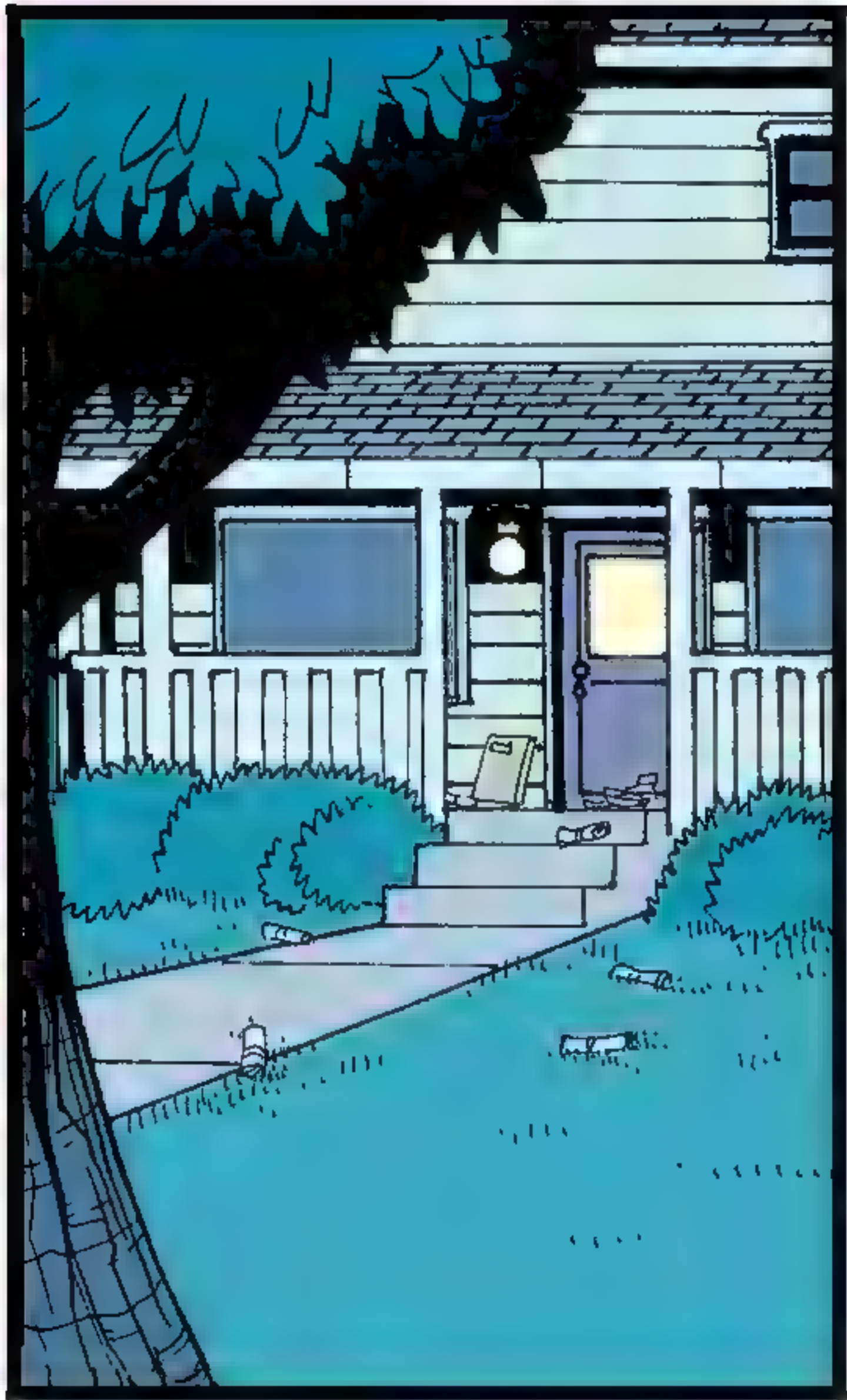
ALL RIGHT THEN.  
FOLLOW ME. NOW ALL  
WE NEED TO DO IS FIT  
YOU WITH AN EAR PIECE  
AND GET YOU A BEEPER  
AND YOU'LL BE READY  
TO GO HOME WITH  
YOUR MOTHER.

WELCOME  
ABOARD,  
MARK.

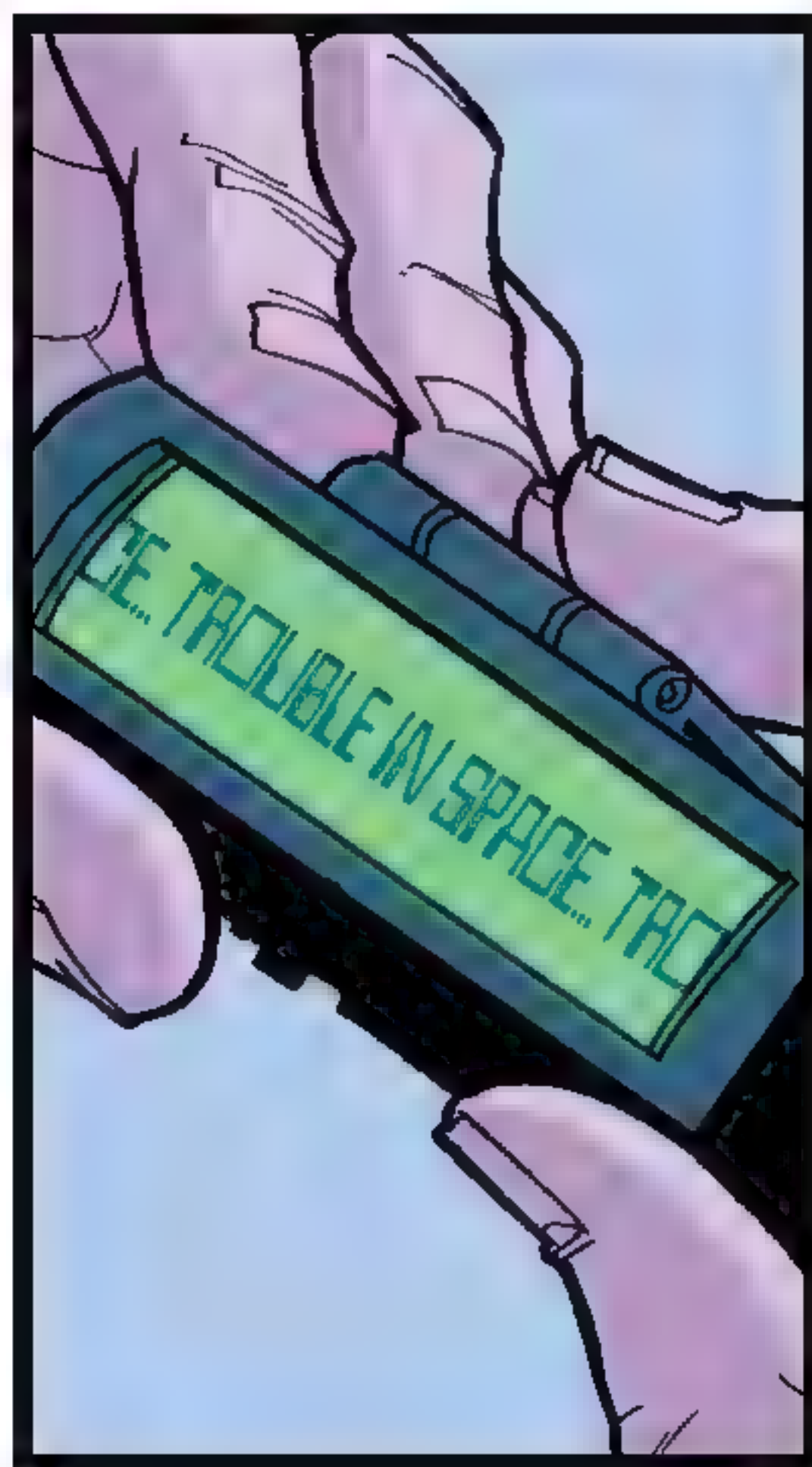
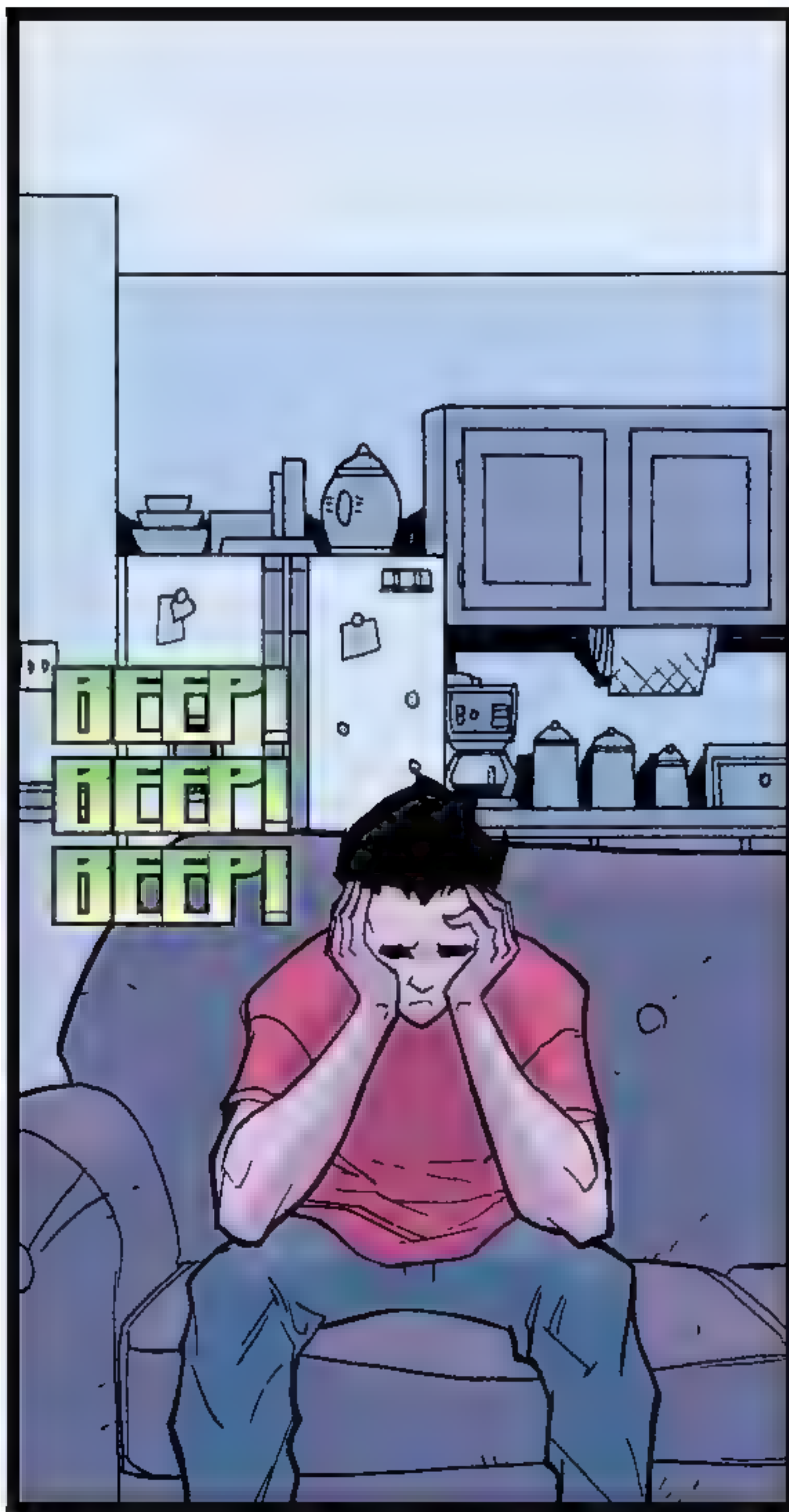




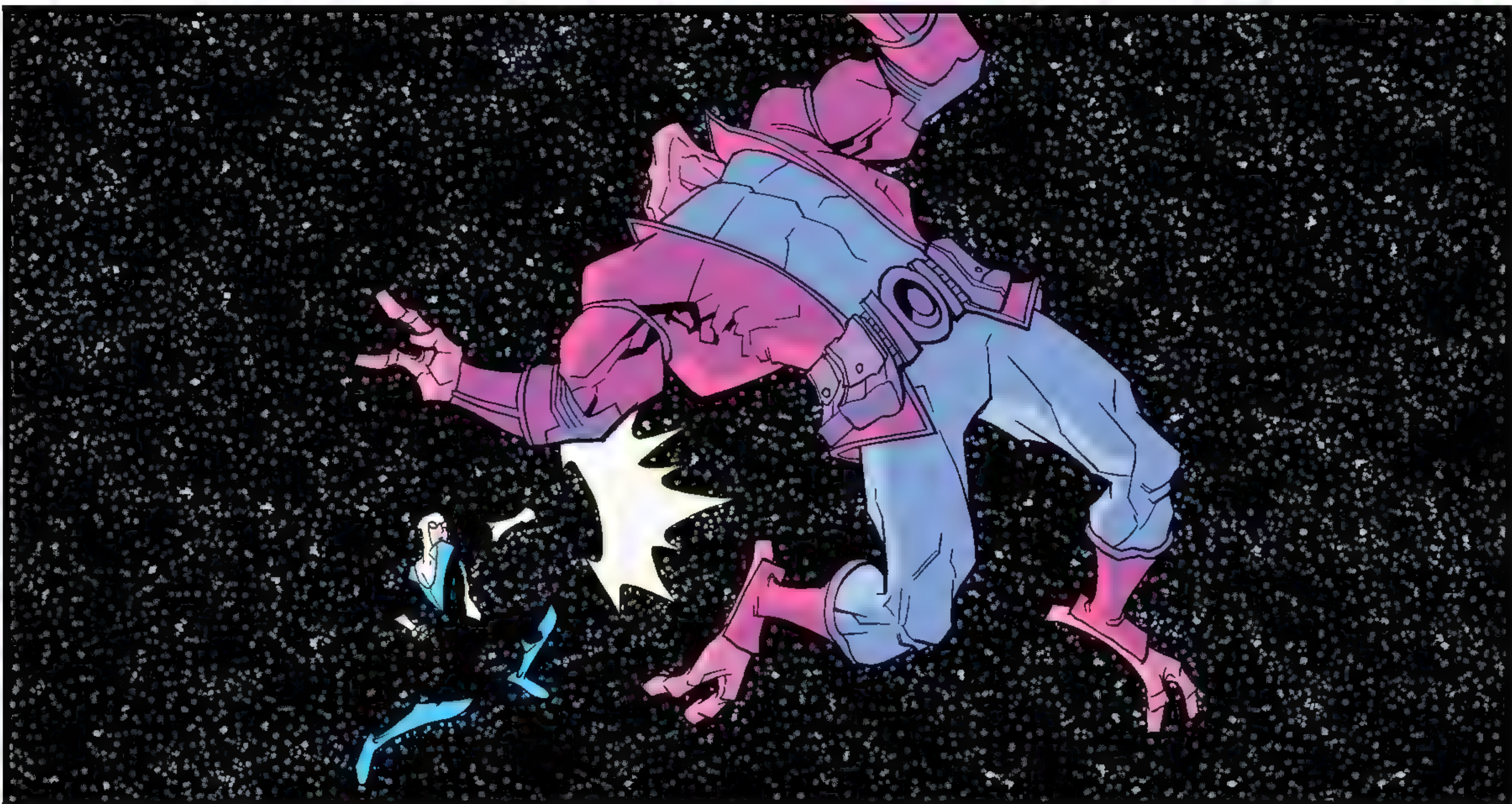
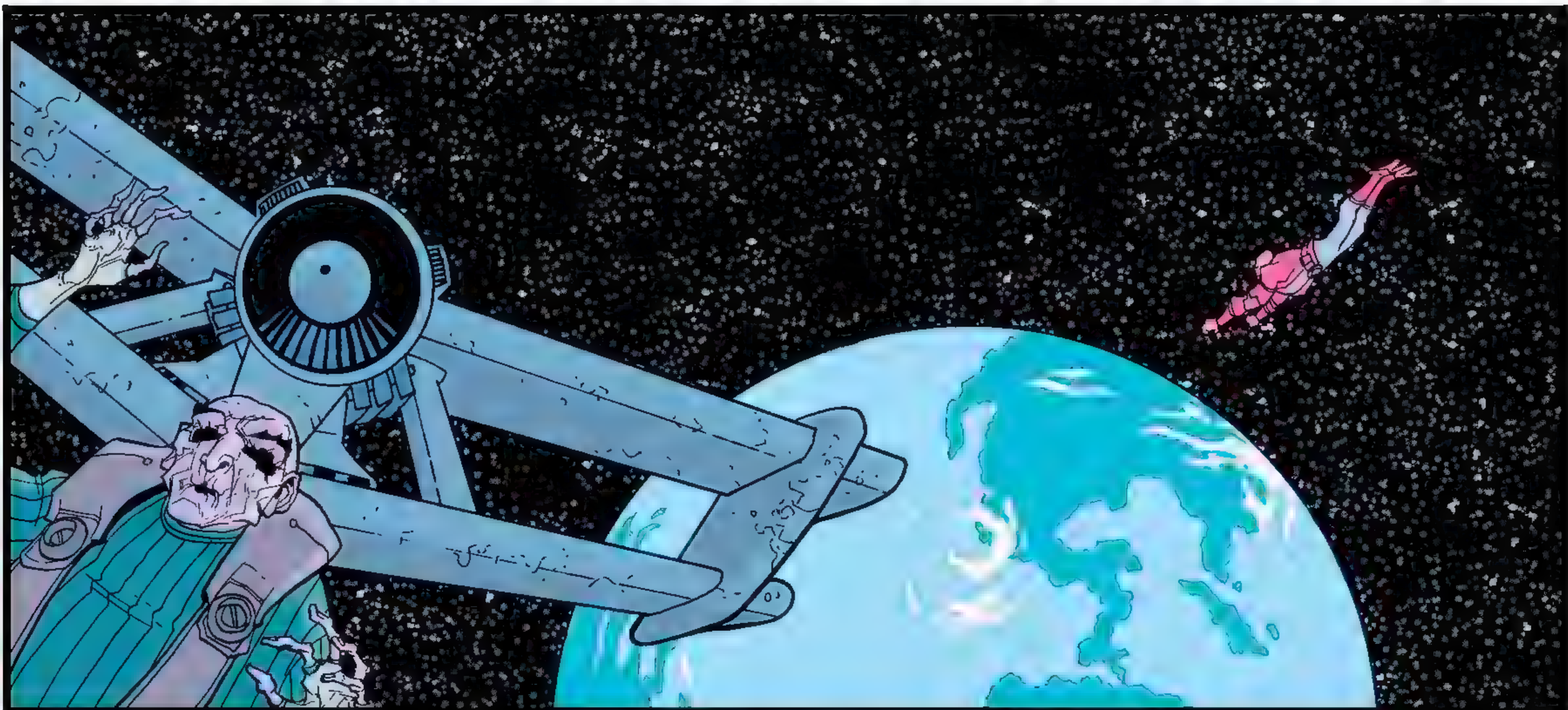








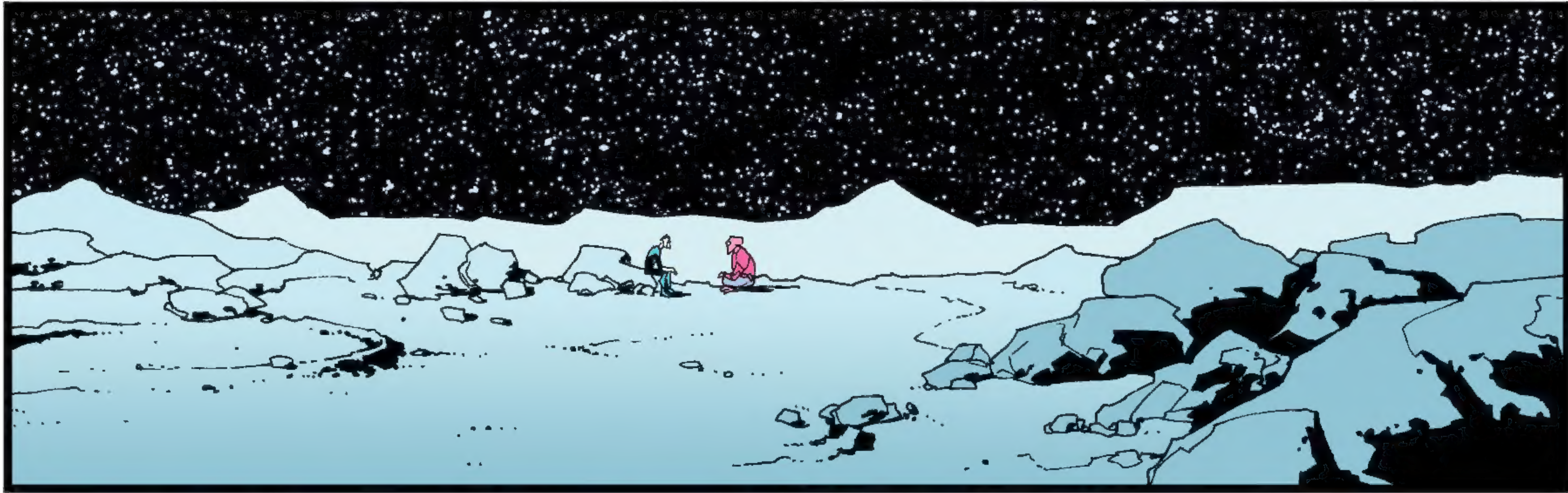












SO...  
**YOU'RE A  
VILTRUMITE?**

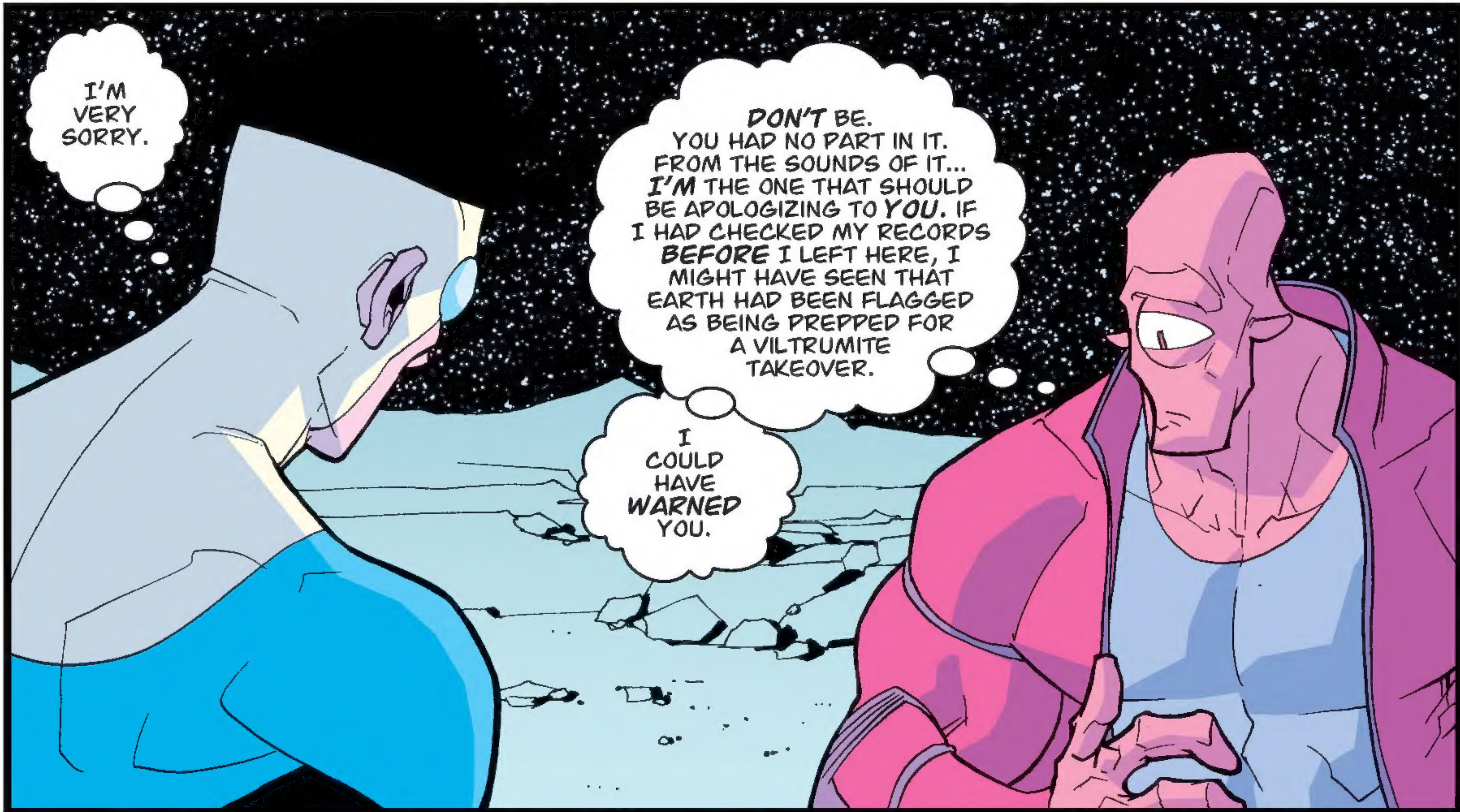
BUT  
YOU DON'T  
**WORK** FOR  
THEM... AND  
YOUR DAD  
**LEFT**. HE  
JUST  
**LEFT**.



YEAH. I'VE  
NEVER EVEN  
**BEEN** TO VILTRUM.  
I DON'T REALLY  
KNOW MUCH ABOUT  
THEM. BUT **YEAH...**  
AS FAR AS WE CAN  
TELL MY DAD IS  
JUST **GONE**.



THAT IS **HIGHLY** UNORTHODOX  
BEHAVIOR FOR A VILTRUMITE.  
THEY DON'T JUST **LEAVE** THEIR  
POST. THEY DESTROYED MY  
HOME WORLD HUNDREDS OF  
YEARS AGO. MY PEOPLE ARE  
A NOMADIC SPECIES  
BECAUSE WE **RESISTED**  
THE VILTRUMITES WHEN  
THEY ATTEMPTED TO  
TAKE OVER.



I'M  
VERY  
SORRY.

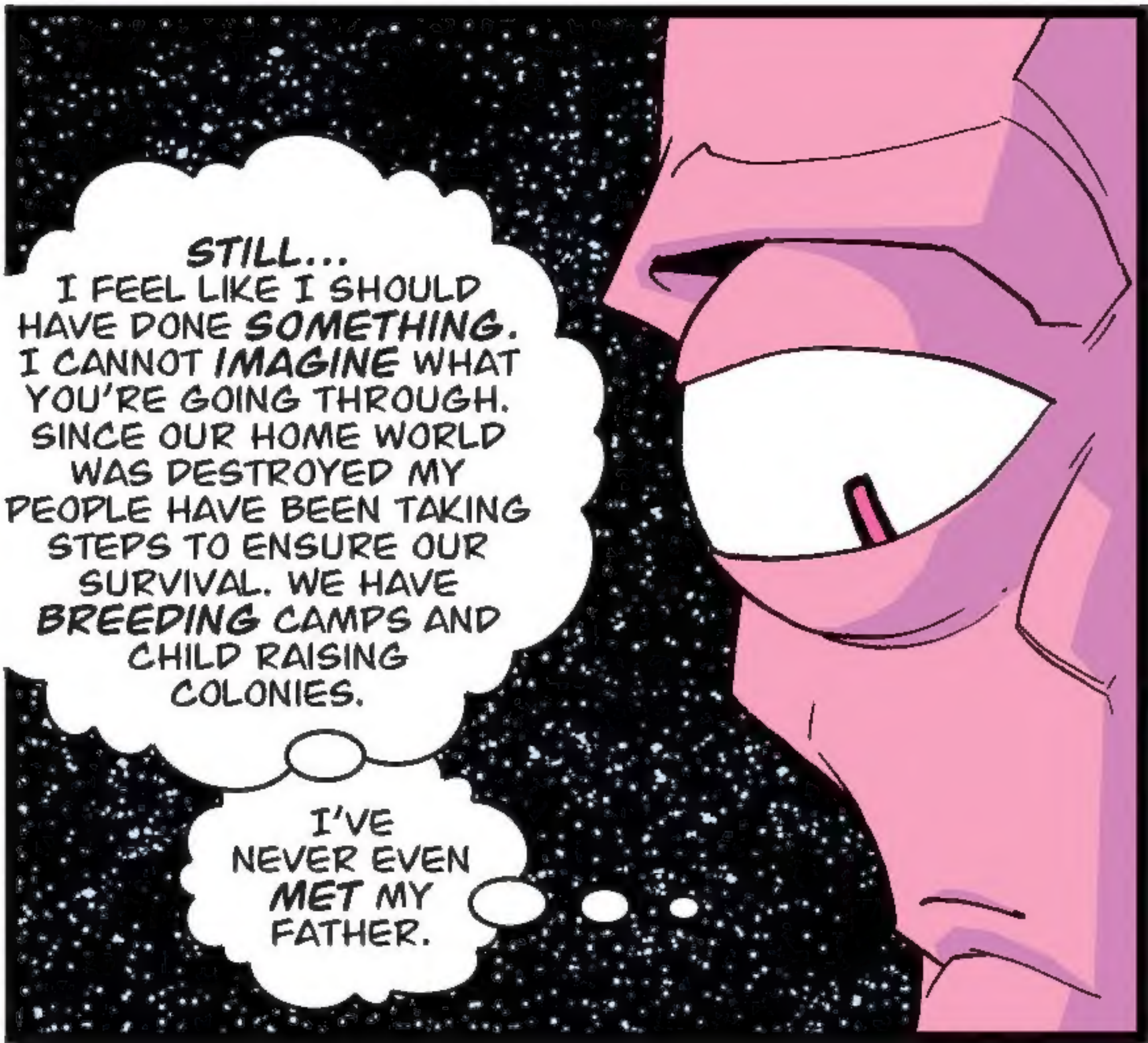
**DON'T BE.**  
YOU HAD NO PART IN IT.  
FROM THE SOUNDS OF IT...  
I'M THE ONE THAT SHOULD  
BE APOLOGIZING TO **YOU**. IF  
I HAD CHECKED MY RECORDS  
**BEFORE** I LEFT HERE, I  
MIGHT HAVE SEEN THAT  
EARTH HAD BEEN FLAGGED  
AS BEING PREPPED FOR  
A VILTRUMITE  
TAKEOVER.

I  
COULD  
HAVE  
**WARNED**  
YOU.





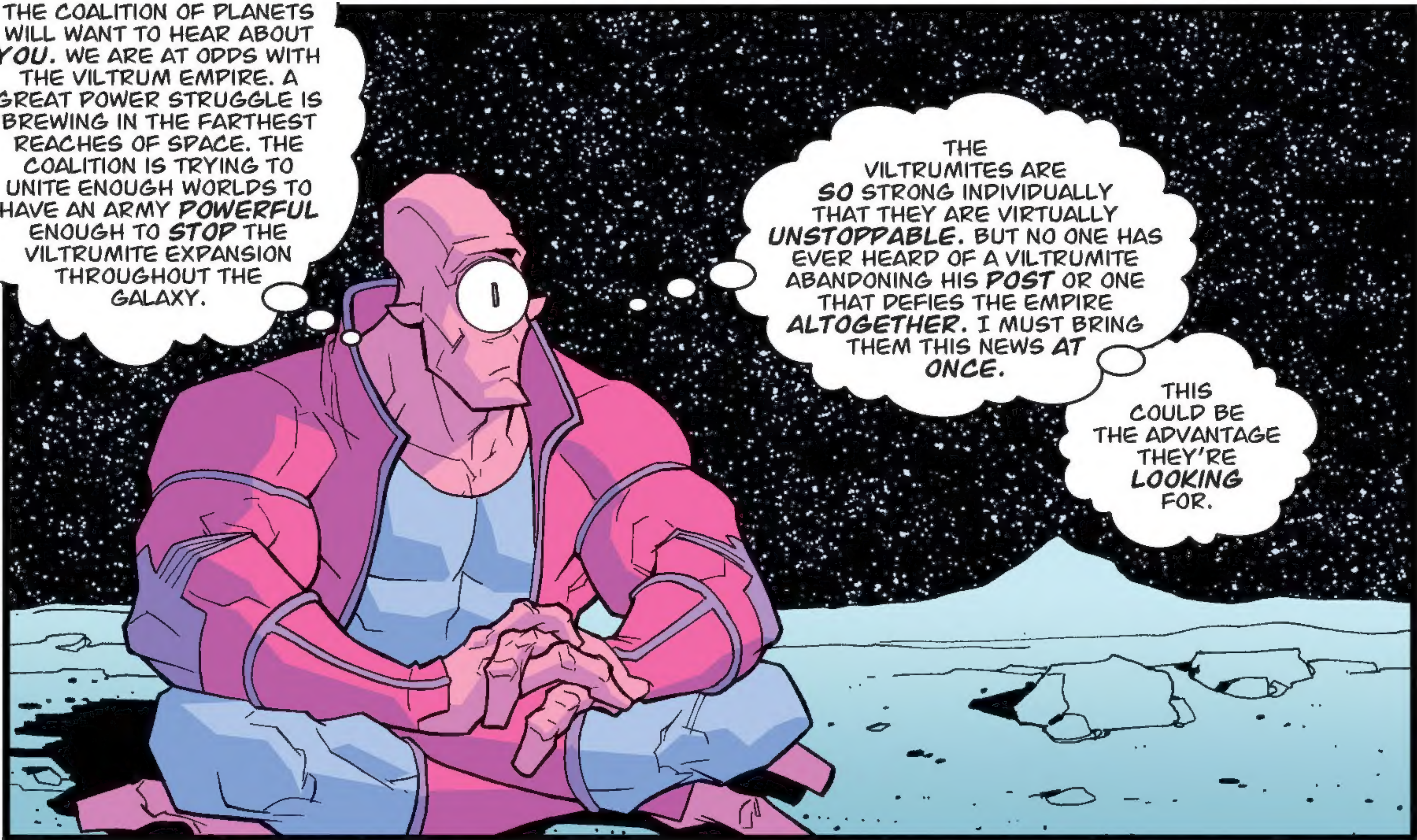
I WOULD HAVE JUST GONE TO MY DAD AND ASKED HIM ABOUT IT. WHO KNOWS HOW THINGS WOULD HAVE PLAYED OUT HAD THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?



STILL... I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD HAVE DONE **SOMETHING**. I CANNOT **IMAGINE** WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH. SINCE OUR HOME WORLD WAS DESTROYED MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL. WE HAVE **BREEDING CAMPS** AND **CHILD RAISING COLONIES**.

I'VE NEVER EVEN MET MY FATHER.

THE COALITION OF PLANETS WILL WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU. WE ARE AT ODDS WITH THE VILTRUM EMPIRE. A GREAT POWER STRUGGLE IS BREWING IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF SPACE. THE COALITION IS TRYING TO UNITE ENOUGH WORLDS TO HAVE AN ARMY **POWERFUL** ENOUGH TO **STOP** THE VILTRUMITE EXPANSION THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.



THE VILTRUMITES ARE SO STRONG INDIVIDUALLY THAT THEY ARE VIRTUALLY **UNSTOPPABLE**. BUT NO ONE HAS EVER HEARD OF A VILTRUMITE ABANDONING HIS POST OR ONE THAT DEFILES THE EMPIRE **ALTOGETHER**. I MUST BRING THEM THIS NEWS AT **ONCE**.

THIS COULD BE THE ADVANTAGE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR.



LET ME KNOW IF I CAN DO ANYTHING TO **HELP**. I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO VILTRUM RETURNING TO THIS PLANET TO CLAIM IT AS PART OF THE **EMPIRE**.



WILL DO. I'LL CERTAINLY LET YOU **KNOW** AS SOON AS I HEAR SOMETHING FROM THE COALITION.

IN THE MEANTIME... WHAT ABOUT **YOU?** WITH YOUR FATHER GONE AND ALL THAT'S HAPPENED... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO **DO?**





FINISH  
HIGH  
SCHOOL, I  
GUESS.



